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We're not annexing Crimea: Putin

Russian president says U.S. 'lab rat' experiments and other western intervention to blame for situation in Ukraine

PAGES 10 & 11

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A wire fence guards the site of the mismanaged and problem-plagued Airport Parkway Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge. On Tuesday, city councillors grilled staff over the handling of the project and findings of an independent inquiry into what went wrong. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Bridge doomed from day one, says report

November finish date. Mayor calls overdue, over-budget project an 'embarrassment'



LUCY SCHOLEY
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City staffers were under fire on Tuesday morning after an independent review of the beleaguered Airport Parkway Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge revealed problems that could have been addressed before shovels even hit the ground.

The report on the project — conducted by SEG Management Consultants and presented to a city committee — pointed to problems that stemmed in the pre-design stage and continued during every step of the process.

A complex design, lack of communication between jun-

ior and senior officials and no schedule revision are reasons the project has been set back by about three years and is over budget by nearly \$5 million, according to the report.

"We either have a problem that's a one-off or we actually have systemic problems with our system or our process and I'm starting to think that it might be the latter," said Coun. Maria McRae, who described the situation as "frustrating" and "disappointing."

McRae pressed Wayne Newell, the city's general manager of infrastructure services, on whether he even visited the construction site. Newell said he stopped in and drove by "hundreds of times" but not until November 2011 — after he learned about its problems. Defects in the lower tower's concrete and design set the project back another year.

The city's transit committee approved an environmental

assessment of the \$6-million airport parkway project in June 2008, but it didn't start until February 2009 due to a work overload, said Deputy City Manager Nancy Schepers.

Coun. Diane Deans also said it was "frustrating" that she never received any timely information on the project. She put forward a motion calling for an in-camera session on personnel issues, but it was voted down 8-3.

City Manager Kent Kirkpatrick apologized for the project, but said it was "premature" to point fingers at anyone. He said he will provide an update on the management policies by this summer. The city's auditor general will also be monitoring the project.

Mayor Jim Watson called the project an "embarrassment," but he said 95 per cent of the city's infrastructure projects are completed on time and under budget.



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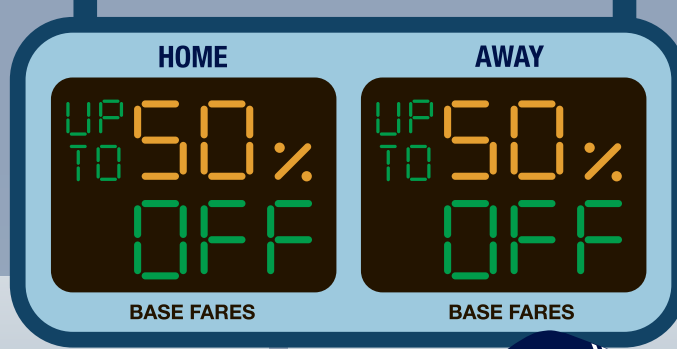


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Skier strives for Paralympic podium, just like her mom

Sochi. Russian emigré turned Canadian citizen looking to match her mother's 1992 gold performance

TREVOR GREENWAY
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Margarita Gorbounova may be heading back to her home country when she competes at her second Paralympic Games in Sochi, but the visually-impaired biathlete and para-Nordic skier from Ottawa won't be waving a Russian flag.

"We won't be on home soil," said Gorbounova, who was born in St. Petersburg and left for Canada when she was 14 years old. She was born with cataracts that left her with about 10 per cent of her vision.

"I guess I kind of will be, but ... I am still a part of Team Canada. We won't be the country that everybody is rooting for, but I think it will be a great Games and it sounds like the Olympics were pretty awesome, so I am looking forward to a great Paralympics in

Catch the action

Gorbounova races biathlon March 8 while her Nordic events run March 10.

Russia also."

Gorbounova said she isn't setting any goals for herself in Sochi, but she wants to improve her performance from four years ago in Vancouver, where her best finish was 7th place in the women's 15-kilometre visually-impaired race.

She wouldn't mind following in her mom's golden ski tracks, as Olga Nazarenko won gold for Russia in 1992 at the Paralympic Games in Para-Nordic skiing.

"When I started to compete, I went out with my mom for my first race," said Gorbounova, adding that both her parents are also visually impaired.

"Having her as an example was a big inspiration."

Gorbounova will be skiing with guide Andrea Bundon for her para-Nordic events and said she will use her biathlon race as a warm-up for her ski races, since shooting is not her forte.



Margarita Gorbounova heads to her second Paralympics in Sochi later this week. CONTRIBUTED/KEVIN BOGETTI-SMITH

Hockey stick holdup ends badly for robber



Kars. TANYA KIRNISHNI/FOR METRO

It's a true Canadian stick-up, with a happy ending. A crook looking to score cash at a convenience store in downtown Ottawa barged in threatening the clerk with a hockey stick.

But the game plan went awry when the clerk snatched the stick away, causing the

would-be thief to skate, er, flee.

The incident happened Monday around 6:40 p.m., at the Kars Confectionery on Kent Street. Police say there were no injuries in the incident.

They describe the suspect as a Caucasian man, about 5'10" with a slim build. He was

dressed in black and wore a balaclava.

The owner of the store declined comment, saying he'd had many calls from media but was too busy to speak and didn't want his picture in the paper.

Anyone with information

that can help put this hockey hood in the penalty box is asked to contact the Ottawa Police Service Robbery Unit at 613-236-1222 ext. 5116 or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS) or toll-free at 1-800-222-8477.

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

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Delilah in the Parc owner Eva Cooper is seen in front of her Ottawa store holding up the letter she received from Quebec language officials saying her Chelsea store's Facebook page needed to be bilingual. She says she has found common ground with the language police. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Chelsea store owner wins fight against language cops

Violation of section 52? Officials tell Eva Cooper to translate some of her Facebook page into French

TREVOR GREENWAY
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Eva Cooper seems to have won her battle with Quebec's language police.

After receiving a letter from the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) ordering her to translate her company Facebook page into French, the owner of Delilah in the Parc in Chelsea took off the gloves and fought the order.

A media storm ensued, as did a social media groundswell of support and it seems the OQLF is backing off.

"Ultimately, I can post the way I want," said a jovial Cooper, a day after negotiating a balance with the OQLF.

"I have to have some French in my posting, but otherwise I can lead off in English. For a moment there, I felt that my free speech had been taken away, but after my conversation with him, I feel like, 'okay, I can still speak. I still have free speech.'"

The OQLF argued Cooper had violated section 52 of the Charter of the French Language, as the charter calls for documents like brochures, catalogues, commercial directories and "any similar publi-

cations" to be in French.

OQLF spokesperson Jean-Pierre Le Blanc said social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter are considered "similar publications."

While the OQLF is no longer forcing Cooper to translate her entire page into French, they still do require some French in postings that deal with advertising products.

"It's not that we are going soft, I think there was a misunderstanding with how the law applies on Facebook," Le

Blanc told Metro Tuesday.

"What we want to be in French is the advertising — a picture of a product and you are saying 'big sale on Friday,' it should also say, 'grande vente en Vendredi.'"

As long as Cooper adds some French when advertising, the file will be closed, said Leblanc.

He explained that French does not need to be predominant over English, but said giving both languages equal weight would be "perfect."

Bill 101

Social media not in bill, says lawyer

A Montreal lawyer says Quebec's language police have no right interfering with what language businesses choose to speak in on social media sites like Twitter and Facebook.

Constitutional and human rights lawyer Michael Bergman has been paying close attention to the Office québécois de la langue française's (OQLF) push to force Chelsea business owner Eva Cooper to translate her Facebook page into French and says the Charter of the French Language says nothing about social media.

"If you look at the wording, it speaks of catalogues, flyers, brochures and similar publications," he told Metro Tuesday, referring to section 52 of the Charter of the French Language.

"It doesn't say anything about digital format."

"They are trying to wander off into areas that the charter is not structured to foresee," he added.

Bergman said that even if Quebec were to amend Bill 101 to include social media sites, it would be "butting heads" with Freedom of Expression and would "likely be struck down."



Michael Bergman CONTRIBUTED

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Undercover investigation

Man nabbed in child porn sting

Police have charged a Smith Falls man following a two week online undercover child pornography investigation culminating with the execution of a search warrant at the man's home Tuesday. David Covell, 38, is charged with one count of making available child pornography, one count of possession of child pornography, one count of accessing child pornography and two counts of creach probation. **METRO**

Next stop, court ...

Man charged for assaulting OC Transpo driver

Police have charged an Ottawa man for assaulting an OC Transpo bus driver March 3. According to police, Patrick Guitard assaulted the driver "while the bus was still in motion." There was no collision and no injuries sustained. Guitard has been charged with assault, causing a disturbance, public intoxication and breach of probation. **TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO**

92 years old

Elderly fire victim dies from injuries

Ottawa Fire Services says a 92-year-old woman who was rescued from a fire at 23 Raftus Square Feb 21, has succumbed to her injuries. The victim had been transferred to the Sunnybrook Hospital burn unit on Saturday February 22th where she was receiving treatment for her injuries. The cause of the fire remains under investigation, however it has been deemed as accidental. **METRO**

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New NAC season 'a celebration' of music director's contributions

Programming. Pinchas Zukerman taking his last bow this year



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The National Arts Centre Orchestra revealed Tuesday that its new season of theatre programming will be a tribute and farewell to outgoing conductor and music director Pinchas Zukerman, who will be retiring at the end of the season.

"It's a celebration of his artistic achievement," said Christopher Deacon, managing director of the NAC. "If we think of the various things he introduced, he made the orchestra bigger, he expanded our repertoire — the Mahler, the Bruckner — so we're going out with a bang in a sense with some of



Outgoing NAC music director Pinchas Zukerman assured an audience of orchestra supporters Tuesday that the NAC benefits from a long-running thread of artistic vision that existed long before he joined the orchestra, and he expects it will continue for many years. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

the initiatives that he brought to us."

Among the unveiled highlights of the season: Itzhak Perlman will perform as headliner at this year's NAC Gala, China's National Centre for the

Performing Arts Orchestra will perform in Ottawa Nov. 9 as part of its first-ever Canadian tour and Zukerman will lead the NAC orchestra in a tour of the U.K.

Zukerman himself told an

audience of orchestra supporters that the NAC had benefitted from the long artistic vision of its founder, Hamilton Southam, and Liberal cabinet minister Mitchell Sharp.

"There is a thread like a

tailor," Zukerman said, making a sewing gesture, "and that thread will continue for many years. I'm so convinced of that."

Part of that continuing thread will be innovative new concerts, such as the NAC's

Friday casual series, which will create more of a lounge setting to draw in a younger crowd, and a series of smaller contemporary music performances at the Mercury Lounge in the By-Ward Market by members of the orchestra.

It's a trend that's caught on in New York City, Deacon said of the Mercury Lounge performances. The boundaries of contemporary music are breaking down, he said, and so audiences can expect to hear just about any musical language in the performances — from hip hop to classical.

"They're excited about this and they're going to have their own video artist there. So, you'll be hearing the music and seeing the projections and the musicians will be there talking with the audience. It will be a chance to explore some more cutting-edge repertoire."

More info can be found at nac-cna.ca.



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NAC has more music in store for the kids

Music for the younger set is proving so popular it's expanding outside the walls of the National Arts Centre.

"It's the ultimate season in family programming," says Genevieve Cimon, director of music education at the National Arts Centre, of the new season of family and children's music programming.

The iconic Beethoven Lives Upstairs and Latin Beats, Heroic Feats are coming to the NAC courtesy of TD's Family Adventure program. The shows will be performed by Platypus Theatre, under the artistic direction of Peter Duschenes.

"We take a music theme, and this year it will be exploring Latin American music, and then we create a story that allows us to explore that so kids are engaged emotionally," explains Duschenes.

"We have about 8,000 students that come to the NAC every year from the Ottawa region," says Cimon.

The NAC provides a variety of educational youth and family programs. The Kinderconcert series, for three- to eight-year-olds, puts on theatre and orchestra concerts every



An illustration from the promotional materials of La Grand Tortue, one of the NAC's Kinderconcert performances slated for this year at the Shenkman Arts Centre and Centrepointe Theatre. CONTRIBUTED

Sunday. Having sold out for nine years in a row, they are now expanding to the Shenkman Arts Centre and Centrepointe Theatre.

NAC's student matinees allow for school music programs to come and watch open orchestra rehearsals.

Aside from inviting students to the theatre, the NAC also has musicians bringing music into schools. Whenever he's in town, Alain Trudel, trombonist and composer, provides band clinics.

"When we did Music Under the Midnight Moon, we had workshops where students constructed instruments that were used afterwards in the show," says Duschenes.

This season they will continue to include interactive elements with youth audiences.

"The education concerts and family programs are planting a seed and certain kids will get inspired by that and hopefully go on to take music in high school," says Duschenes.

TANYA KIRNISHNI/FOR METRO



Hannah Alper, 11, seen here in this 2013 photo, started blogging about the environment when she was nine, but has since branched out to embrace a number of progressive issues, including human rights. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Little blogger, mighty voice

Hannah Alper. 11-year-old activist among speakers coming to Ottawa's We Day event

TANYA KIRNISHNI
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A little girl is making big waves across Canada through her work as a social activist and eco-blogger.

"Little things add up to a big change," says 11-year-old Hannah Alper. She will be featured as one of the key speakers at National We Day on April 9 at Canadian Tire Centre.

Alper's role models, Craig and Marc Kielburger, are the co-founders of Free the Children, the organization behind

We Day. When she first met Craig Kielburger in 2012, Alper was inspired by his work as a humanitarian. "He wanted to use his passion through awareness, not money."

Getting involved, Alper first went up on stage in front of 20,000 people at Toronto's We Day last fall. "I was pretty nervous, but when I got up on stage I realized that they were youth just like me," said Alper. Since then, she has inspired her peers to pursue social change by setting an example through her own passions.

"When I first started, my parents told me to blog something I was passionate about," said Alper. Although she began with a focus on environmental issues, she has gone on to advocate for fair trade, anti-bullying and numerous other human rights issues. "I want

Key speakers

Some of the other speakers who will be appearing at the event:

- Queen Noor of Jordan
- Martin Luther King III
- Juno Award-winning band Simple Plan

my viewers to see this and be inspired to create change," said Alper.

At National We Day, Alper will talk about the rights of children around the world to receive an education. By pursuing her beliefs, Alper lives by her message, "You are never too young to bring change."

Toronto, Ottawa artists win Gov. Gen. awards

A sculptor who creates fantastical worlds from items including car parts is among the winners of this year's Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts.

Kim Adams of Toronto made the list of eight laureates announced today by the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Edmonton native is known for using car parts as well as toys and model kits in contemporary sculptures that

reflect on socio-economic and environmental issues.

Other recipients of the \$25,000 honour include England-born, Vancouver-raised multidisciplinary visual artist Max Dean.

The other laureates are painter Carol Wainio and curator Brydon Smith of Ottawa; performance and installation artist Raymond Gervais and photographer/visual artist Angela Grauerholz of Montreal;

Vancouver media artist Jayce Salloum; and weaver/notebook keeper Sandra Brownlee of Dartmouth, N.S.

Gov. Gen. David Johnston will present the awards at a ceremony at Rideau Hall on March 26.

An exhibition featuring selected works by this year's winners will run at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa from March 28 to July 6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Witness breaks down at Oscar Pistorius trial in South Africa

The Blade Runner.

Athlete is charged with killing his girlfriend; the judge will deliver verdict since S. Africa has no trial by jury

For two days, the witness in the murder trial of Oscar Pistorius kept her composure.

Then, just as her testimony was about to finish, she broke down in tears at what she said was the memory of the screams she heard on the night that the double-amputee athlete fatally shot his girlfriend in his South African home.

Michelle Burger, a neighbour of Pistorius who took the stand on the second day of a trial watched around the world, remained calm through intense questioning



Oscar Pistorius, centre, is escorted out of the high court on the second day of his trial in Pretoria, South Africa, Monday. THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

by the chief defence lawyer. In a final exchange with the lead prosecutor on Tuesday, however, emotion washed

over her as she recalled what she described as the terrified screams of a woman early on Valentine's Day last year.

"When I'm in the shower, I relive her shouts," Burger said. Burger, a university lecturer, lives 177 metres from

Pistorius' house, where his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, died in what he calls an accident. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Court order

Media warned by the judge

Tuesday's proceedings were interrupted when Judge Thokozile Masipa ordered an investigation into allegations that a South African television channel was broadcasting a photograph of the witness during her testimony — against a court order guaranteeing privacy to witnesses who request it.

"I am warning the media," the judge said, "if you do not behave, you are not going to be treated with soft gloves by this court."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Columbus, Ohio

Child tossed out of school over pretend gun play

A 10-year-old U.S. boy was suspended for three days from school for pretending his finger was a gun and pointing it at another student's head, the principal said.

The boy's father says it's the adults who are acting childish for suspending the boy from his school in Columbus, Ohio, last week.

Since zero-tolerance policies were adopted following school shootings around the United States, Columbus schools have disciplined students for violations including firing a Nerf foam-dart gun at school. A similar policy was cited last year when a Maryland school suspended a 7-year-old boy who had chewed a Pop-Tart into a gun shape.

The Ohio boy said he was "just playing around." But school district spokesman Jeff Warner said that Devonshire principal Patricia Price has warned students about pretend gun play numerous times this year.

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More research on wine and cancer is needed. DEBRA BLACK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brock U. Moderate amount of red wine may fight lung cancer: Study

A recent study by Niagara region scientists suggests moderate amounts of red wine might be useful in fighting lung cancer, but it's far too early for physicians to start prescribing pinot noir to patients.

The study was conducted in cell cultures, and justifies the value of further study on lab mice, Evangelia Tsiani of Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont., said. "This is

only a study in cells," said Tsiani, one of three Brock researchers involved. "We can't recommend anything for humans at this point."

The study found that moderate amounts of red wine inhibit the spread of lung cancer cells. "Our data suggest that wine may have considerable anti-tumour and chemoprevention properties in lung cancer..."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ford says Kimmel Live show a success

'Bananas for Rob.'

Mayor said he received support after the show and denied that Kimmel had made a fool out of him

Mayor Rob Ford rejected suggestions on Tuesday that late-

night TV comedian Jimmy Kimmel had humiliated him, and denied needing help for substance abuse.

Speaking at city hall after his trip to Los Angeles, an upbeat Ford sloughed off Kimmel's reruns of several embarrassing videos and his suggestion the mayor find someone to talk to about his addictions.

"I don't have any personal

issues," Ford said.

"We've gone down that road a number of times."

For much of his 15-minute appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live late Monday, the mayor looked uncomfortable as the comedian razzed him over a series of incidents that have garnered Ford world-wide attention.

"Our first guest tonight has tripped, bumped, danced,

argued and smoked his way into our national consciousness," Kimmel said by way of introduction.

Ford said he had received a "lot of support" following his appearance and denied that Kimmel had made a fool out of him.

"I knew I was going into a lion's den but I held my own," the mayor said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has his forehead wiped by host Jimmy Kimmel on Monday in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michigan

It's OK if you are annoying

It's soon expected to be OK to be wilfully annoying in Grand Rapids. The Grand Rapids Press reports that the City Commission is nixing a 38-year-old section of city code that states "no person shall wilfully annoy another person." City Attorney Catherine Mish recommended repealing the language, saying the wording is vague and un-enforceable.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nova Scotia

Bar society told to tolerate Christian values

Excluding law school graduates from working in Nova Scotia because they attended a university that prohibits same-sex intimacy would be discriminatory, the university's president told the province's bar society Tuesday. He said religious beliefs won't prevent students from acting professionally and ethically.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mardi Gras in New Orleans

Members of the Krewe of Zulu hold painted coconuts to give to parade-goers as they march during Mardi Gras in New Orleans on Tuesday. The Zulu parade began on schedule, led by a New Orleans police vanguard on horseback that included Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

GERALD HERBERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Activist claims assault by police in Egyptian airport

The co-founder of U.S.-based anti-war group Code Pink said Tuesday that Egyptian police detained her at Cairo's international airport when she tried to enter the country on her way to the Gaza Strip and treated her roughly, fracturing her shoulder as they handcuffed her before deporting her.

Egyptian officials denied Medea Benjamin was assaulted, saying she had refused to leave despite being told that the border to Gaza is closed because of military operations in the area. However, other members of the same delegation of women activists heading to Gaza were allowed into Egypt, and it was not clear why Benjamin was singled out for deportation.

Speaking from Turkey, where she was deported, Benjamin said she was roughed up by Egyptian airport officials and security agents, who declined to explain why she was barred from entry, telling her only that she was on a blacklist.

When she refused to board a plane to Istanbul without first meeting with U.S. embassy offi-



In this 2012 photo, riot police arrest U.S. activist Medea Benjamin during a protest in Qadam, Bahrain. The co-founder of U.S.-based anti-war group Code Pink says Egyptian police detained her at the airport Tuesday and assaulted her, fracturing her shoulder, before deporting her. HASAN JAMALI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

cials, the 61-year-old Benjamin said security agents wrestled her to the ground, sat on her back and yanked her arms behind her.

"They put extremely, extremely tight (plastic) handcuffs" on, she said. She said it was then that her shoulder was dislocated and that a doctor later reset it but told her it was fractured and a ligament was torn. She said the police dragged her across the airport

to a plane for Istanbul. "It was as if I was some kind of crazy terrorist," she said.

Benjamin was held in the Cairo airport for nearly 14 hours, half of the time in a cell for deportees.

She was heading to the Gaza Strip as part of a delegation of women activists to express support for the impoverished territory, subjected to heavy restrictions by Israel and Egypt.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRIMEA CRISIS



Putin ratchets over situation

Tough talk. Russian president takes jabs at the West, insists he has no intention of annexing Crimea or fighting 'the Ukrainian people'

Vladimir Putin talked tough but cooled tensions in the Ukraine crisis in his first comments since its president fled, saying Russia has no intention "to fight the Ukrainian people" but reserved the right to use force. As the Russian president held court Tuesday in his personal residence, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with Kyiv's fledgling government and Moscow agreed to sit down with NATO.

Although nerves remained on edge in Crimea, with Russian troops firing warning shots to ward off Ukrainian soldiers, global markets catapulted higher on tentative signals that the Kremlin was not

seeking to escalate the conflict. Kerry brought a \$1-billion aid package to a Ukraine fighting to fend off bankruptcy.

Putin delivered a characteristic performance filled with earthy language, macho swagger and sarcastic jibes, accusing the West of promoting an "unconstitutional coup" in Ukraine. At one point he compared the U.S. role in Ukraine to an experiment with "lab rats."

But the overall message appeared to be one of de-escalation. "It seems to me (Ukraine) is gradually stabilizing," Putin said. "We have no enemies in Ukraine. Ukraine is a friendly state." He tempered those com-

ments by warning that Russia was willing to use "all means at our disposal" to protect ethnic Russians in the country.

Significantly, Russia agreed to a NATO request to hold a special meeting to discuss Ukraine on Wednesday in Brussels, opening up a possible diplomatic channel in a conflict that still holds monumental hazards and uncertainties.

In his meeting with reporters on Tuesday, Putin said Russia had no intention of annexing Crimea, and hammered away at his message that the West was to blame for Ukraine's turmoil, saying its actions were driving Ukraine into anarchy.

Quoted

"We hope that Russia will understand its responsibility in destabilizing the security situation in Europe, that Russia will realize that Ukraine is an independent state and that Russian troops will leave the territory of Ukraine." Ukraine Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk



You love your cat... but not the allergy

Cat allergy symptoms such as **itchy and watery eyes, sneezing and stuffy nose** can make you feel miserable. If you have tried different treatments with little or no relief, there may be another option for you.

CATALYST
The cat allergy study

Local doctors are conducting a research study of an investigational treatment to see if it helps reduce the symptoms associated with cat allergy. If you are between the ages of 12 and 65 and have experienced cat allergy symptoms for at least two years you may qualify.

Qualified participants will receive all study related exams and study medication at no cost. Compensation for time and travel may be available.

To learn more, please contact:
613-725-2102 ext 224
www.yangmedicine.com

www.thecatallergystudy.com



IVAN SEKRETAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manpower**300**

Col. Yuri Mamchur, pictured here, led around 300 unarmed Ukrainian officers to the base outside Sevastopol, Ukraine, in a peaceful attempt to retake their airfield. Russian soldiers drove the troops back by firing warning shots into the air.

Concern

"We are worried. But we will not give up our base."

Ukrainian Capt. Nikolai Syomko, an air force radio electrician patrolling the back of the compound. He said the soldiers felt they were being held hostage, caught between Russia and Ukraine.

Standoffs

Russia's seizure of Crimea has not gone as smoothly as Moscow may have expected. Ukrainian soldiers have refused to hand over weapons or switch allegiances, resulting in standoffs between men surprised to find themselves on opposing sides.

Kentucky

State to appeal out-of-state gay marriage decision

The governor of Kentucky said Tuesday the state will hire outside attorneys to appeal a judge's decision granting legal recognition to same-sex couples married in other states and countries after the attorney general said he would not pursue the case further.

The split legal decisions from two Democrats come four days after a federal judge gave the socially conservative southern state 21 days to implement a ruling overturning a voter-imposed ban on recognizing same-sex unions.

The disagreement comes against the backdrop of similar rulings or actions in several other states where same-sex couples have long fought for the right to marry. Gay marriage advocates have enjoyed a series of legal victories as judges have overturned voter-approved bans in Texas, Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Nepal

Rules aim to stop Mt. Everest from being Mt. Trashiest

Nepal is making new rules to persuade trekkers to clean up after themselves on Mount Everest, in the hopes of clearing the tons of rubbish now clogging the world's highest peak.

This spring, Nepali officials will start to check that each climber descends the mountain with approximately eight kilograms of trash — what the government estimates climbers discard along the route.

"We are not asking climbers to search and pick up trash left by someone else," said the Tourism Ministry's Maddhu Sudan Burlakoti. "We just want them to bring back what they took up."

The goal is to make sure no new trash will be left on Everest, which has earned the nickname "the world's highest garbage dump" because of the tons of food wrappers, tents and oxygen cylinders left on the mountain. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Siberia

Scientists thaw out 30,000-year-old giant virus

Researchers have revived a giant virus more than 30,000 years old, recovered from the permafrost of northeast Siberia.

The virus poses no threat to people, and although it is considered a giant when compared to other viruses, it is microscopic and infects amoebas.

It is a new kind of giant virus, joining a group that was first discovered 10 years ago.

The researchers said their finding suggests that dangerous germs might emerge in the future as permafrost thaws because of global warming or mineral exploration. They said sampling permafrost to look for ancient viruses that infect amoebas is an inexpensive and safe way to assess that potential threat.

The new work was reported Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

down worries in Ukraine

Russia's Foreign Ministry derided U.S. threats of punitive measures as a "failure to enforce its will and its vision of the 'right' and 'wrong' side of history" — a swipe at President Barack Obama's statement Monday that Russia was "on the wrong side of history."

Putin accused the West of using fugitive President Viktor Yanukovich's decision in November to ditch a pact with the EU in favour of closer ties with Russia to fan the protests that drove him from power and plunged Ukraine into turmoil.

While he said he still considers Yanukovich to be Ukraine's legitimate president, he acknowledged that the fallen leader has no political future — and said Russia gave him shelter only to save his life.

Putin had withering words for Yanukovich, with whom he has never been close.

Asked if he harbours any sympathy for the fugitive president, Putin replied that he has "quite opposite feelings."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Russian President Vladimir Putin listens to journalists' questions at the presidential residence outside Moscow on Tuesday.

ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/RIA NOVOSTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADVERTISING FEATURE

How to Sell Your Home Without an Agent and Save the Commission

Ottawa ON - If you've tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the "For Sale by Owner" sign up, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren't from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

Like other "For Sale by Owners", you'll be subjected to a hundred sales pitches from agents who will tell you how great they are and how you can't possibly sell your home by yourself. After all, without the proper information, selling a home isn't easy. Perhaps you've had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their

homes themselves. But don't give up until you've read a new report entitled "Sell Your Own Home" which has been prepared especially for homesellers like you. You'll find that selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

Inside this report, you'll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time. You'll find out what real estate agents don't want you to know.

To order a FREE Special Report, visit **www.ottawarealestateedge.com**

Get your free special report NOW to learn how you really can sell your home yourself.

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So how do things go viral, anyway?



SHANE GIBSON
Metro in Winnipeg

On the surface, pictures of cats in hats, grown men pretending to be Star Wars characters and a link that unexpectedly opens a video by a one-hit wonder from the '80s all seem like just good ways to have a chuckle while frittering away time at work. But in reality, Internet memes have become a serious business.

Sites like cheezburger.com — credited with bringing into the mainstream the whole cute-cat-picture thing you'll know from your Facebook feed — are worth big money. But that wouldn't be possible if they were run by a couple of bored office workers looking at pictures of cats; a site can only be worth millions if its content is seen by millions. In other, more au courant words, it has to go viral.

But, we wondered, at what point can it be said that something has gone viral? And how exactly does that even happen?

Generating buzz

"One of the funny things about it is if you're intentionally trying to start a meme you have to look like you're not intentionally trying to start it."

Social-media expert Tim Hwang

on the subject, organized ROFLCon, the first Internet-culture convention, which debuted in 2008.

It's not an exact science, the 27-year-old self-described social-media expert told Metro, but there are a few things to keep in mind if you want your picture of little Fluffy to explode online.

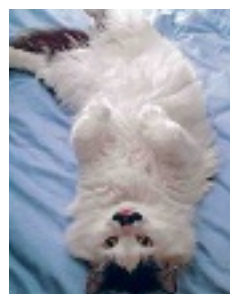
"One of the funny things about it is if you're intentionally trying to start a meme you have to look like you're not intentionally trying to start it," he said.

Hwang believes the culture's most recognized memes share two properties. The first is simplicity. "For Grumpy Cat, for example, there was one funny image that people could Photoshop.... They've been successful because it's really easy for people to contribute." The second is malleability, which allows audiences to customize and then reshare the images.

"Memes need to provide a way for you to participate online to be successful," Hwang said.

"The really interesting thing about memes is that, certainly in the last few years, the world for them has gotten a lot more commercialized. Which is both good and bad.... I think it's been a trade-off. It's really great that a lot more people are connected to the culture of the web, but in some ways the Internet has lost some of its original community feel."

Hwang said that to truly go viral most successful memes and image macros need time online to pick up a dedicated following, and then need the help of mainstream media to really explode. Metro, being part of the mainstream media, decided not to press our built-in advantage on Step 2, the better to understand Step 1 from the point of view of a normal Internet user.



Be afraid, Lil Bub — it's Stash!

Metro attempts to make a cat go viral



Internet cat-lebrities

Cute, cuddly and the main Stash came to her owner, Metro were found abandoned in a box

Reporter Shane Gibson Dacey
We all know the Internet runs our quest to answer
How popular would this call him a viral sensation, like

Lil Bub

Known for her permanent kitten appearance, Lil Bub is a dwarf cat with a lolling tongue and a big heart. She's spawned a merchandise empire, and boasts an impressive array of social media followers. She even has her own talk show.

By the numbers:

Born: June 21, 2011
Facebook fans: 645,000
Twitter followers: 34,500
Instagram: 358,000
YouTube subscribers: 105,000

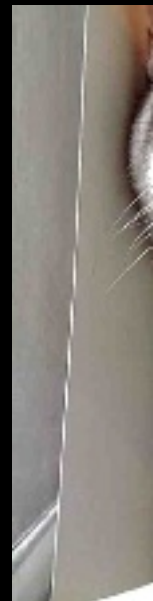


Nala Cat

Quite possibly the only cat with over one million Instagram followers, Nala is a Siamese-Tabby mix known for her blue eyes and love of bow ties.

By the numbers:

Estimated age: 3
Facebook fans: 110,627
Instagram: 1,100,000





Online

For a video and photos of Stash and more, go to metronews.ca



Meet Stash the Moustache Cat ...

character in our quest for worldwide fame, this cat possesses a unique look. Winnipeg managing editor Elisha Dacey, in a special way: Stash and his sister Mya and taken to a local pet shelter, who already had an abundance of kittens and was hoping for some press coverage to spur adoptions. took a photo of Stash, and it was love at first black-hair-fluff-under-nose sight. wasted no time in adopting Stash, along with his sister, Mya. on cats. Stash, with his ridiculous moustache, proved the purr-fect protagonist in some culturally pertinent questions: How easy is it to make a cat popular online? particular (and particularly moustachioed) cat have to get before we could fairly Lil Bub? Our answer may surprise you. **Bernice Pontanilla/Metro in Winnipeg**

The virality checklist

Tim Hwang said that deciding whether something has gone viral is fundamentally subjective and that it's impossible to set purely numerical targets. But for the purposes of our experiment, he suggested some broad categories against which to evaluate our success.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO IN WINNIPEG

1 How many Instagram followers can we accumulate?



2 How many images can we collect from followers? (That is, how many times did someone use our 'template' to create a new meme?)



3 How much action on Reddit, the self-proclaimed front page of the Internet, can we generate?



4 How much traffic can we drive to Stash's website, stashthemoustachecat.com?



5 How many views of Stash's Imgur pictures can we achieve?



Maru

One of the first cats to garner online fame, Maru is a Scottish fold from Japan whose fascination with boxes has been delighting YouTube users for years.

By the numbers:

Born: May 24, 2007
YouTube subscribers: 428,000



From cats to coups in the 'Global Village'

It was University of Manitoba graduate and University of Toronto professor Marshall McLuhan who coined the term the "Global Village" back in the early 1960s.

Though the Internet arrived years after McLuhan's death, he foresaw that technological advances would bring about a world that would once again be reduced to a village, albeit a very large one.

McLuhan's vision, one can easily argue, has come true: Trends and news now travel at the speed of a click.

And while it occurs for such silly things as music vid-

Canadian prophet

"The new electronic interdependence recreates the world in the image of a global village."

Canadian communication theorist and intellectual Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980)

eos — think Psy's Gangnam Style, which has 1.9 billion views and counting — it has also proved useful for serious events such as the recent crisis in Ukraine.

**BERNICE PONTANILLA/
METRO IN WINNIPEG**

Market Minute



DOLLAR
90.09¢ (-0.13¢)



TSX
14,289.86 (+77.12)



OIL
\$103.33 US (-\$1.59)



GOLD
\$1,337.90 (-\$12.40)

Natural gas: \$4.64 US (+\$0.14)
Dow Jones: 16,395.88 (+227.85)

Alberta to Wisconsin

Enbridge shelling out \$7B to replace Canada-US pipeline

Energy shipper Enbridge is spending \$7-billion US to overhaul a 46-year-old oil pipeline between Alberta and Wisconsin — a project it says won't have to go through the

same U.S. federal process that has bogged down a rival's Keystone XL proposal.

In the largest project in its history, Calgary-based Enbridge Inc. and its U.S. affiliate will be replacing Line 3 using improved steel and coating.

Enbridge and its customers concluded that replacing the line entirely was a more cost-effective option in the long term. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Another big purchase?

Facebook may buy solar drone company for \$60M

Facebook was in talks to buy Titan Aerospace to step up its efforts to provide Internet access to remote parts of the world, according to reports in the technology blog Tech-

crunch and financial news outlet CNBC Tuesday.

Both websites cited anonymous sources who were familiar with the deal and put a purchase price at \$60 million US.

Facebook spokesman Tucker Bounds said Tuesday that the company does not comment on rumours and speculation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dear America, please approve Keystone XL

Sincerely, Canada.

Our government has sent the U.S. a letter asking that the pipeline gets the OK from Obama

The Canadian government is expressing a desire to work with the United States on reducing oil and gas pollution in a letter to the Obama administration that calls for approval of the Keystone XL pipeline.

The letter argues the merits of the pipeline on environmental, economic and energy-security grounds — and it suggests a willingness, without offering specifics, to take additional steps to curb greenhouse-gas emissions.

From, Canada's ambassador

"Our energy and environment officials are currently assessing common energy issues, including potential oil and gas issues, which we could usefully address together."

Said the note to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, dated Feb. 28 and released Tuesday.

The three-page note from Canada's ambassador to Washington, Gary Doer, says the two countries have already worked together on different climate initiatives, including vehicle-emissions standards, and they can do more.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Getting feedback

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is leading a regulatory review of TransCanada Corp.'s pipeline proposal and is accepting public

comments during a 90-day national-interest determination phase, including the letter from the Canadian government.



Fiscal plan? Pssh! Have you heard about my recess plans?

U.S. President Barack Obama sits with Marcus Wesby and other preschool students during his visit to Powell Elementary School in the Petworth neighbourhood of Washington on Tuesday. Obama visited the school to talk about his fiscal 2015 federal budget proposal, which was released Tuesday. The blueprint for fiscal 2015, which begins Oct. 1, includes new spending for preschool education and job training, expanded tax credits for 13.5 million low-income workers without children and more than \$1 trillion US in higher taxes over the next decade, mostly for the wealthiest Americans and corporations. **PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Poll says. Average RRSP contribution dips to \$3,518

Two-thirds of Canadians polled would like to have put more money into their RRSPs for the 2013 tax year, according to a new survey that found average contributions were down slightly this time around.

The Bank of Montreal survey, conducted last week, said that Canadians were contributing an average of \$3,518 to their RRSPs, down \$26 from an average of \$3,544 for the 2012 tax year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Partners. Nova Scotia, U.K. to study tidal energy

Nova Scotia and the United Kingdom have agreed to work together on research aimed at generating electricity from high tides like those in the Bay of Fundy.

Energy Minister Andrew

Younger and Corin Robertson, the acting British deputy high commissioner to Canada, announced a memorandum of understanding Tuesday in Halifax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chrysler punts government funds for Ontario plants



Sergio Marchionne, Chrysler's CEO, speaks at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto on Feb. 13. **CHRIS YOUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Chrysler Group LLC says it will continue with plans to start a new minivan assembly line in Windsor even though it is no longer seeking funding from the federal and Ontario governments.

The auto giant said Tuesday it will also invest in its Brampton assembly plant, which builds the Dodge Charger, Challenger and Chrysler 300.

Chrysler said government officials were notified earlier this week that it was withdrawing its request for \$700

million in subsidies because the projects were being used as a "political football."

"It is clear to us that our projects are now being used as a political football, a process that, in our view, apart from being unnecessary and ill-advised, will ultimately not be to the benefit of Chrysler," the company said in a statement.

"As a result, Chrysler will deal in an unfettered fashion with its strategic alternatives regarding product development and allocation, and will fund out of its own resources

whatever capital requirements the Canadian operations require."

Meanwhile, the Ontario government called the decision by Chrysler evidence that negotiations had been successful between officials and the car maker.

"Our negotiations with Chrysler were consistent with our past level of support for major auto investments," said Eric Hoskins, Ontario minister of economic development, in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Future here uncertain

Chrysler Group LLC said it will start upgrading its Canadian factories with its own capital but its investment will depend on Canada's competitiveness with other global factories and cooperation with the union. "Of particular importance" will be the outcome of collective bargaining negotiations in 2016 with UNIFOR (the merged entity of the CAW and CEP).

THERE'S A DIRE NEED FOR ... CLOWNS?

There's a worldwide shortage of clowns.

I'm not clowning around. I'm serious. According to an "exclusive" story in the New York Daily News, the membership of the World Clown Association has declined by 1,000 in the past decade, from 3,500 to 2,500.

This has implications for the future of clowning:

Instead of "Send in the clowns," we'll have to change the lyrics to "Send in a clown" or "Is there a clown around?"

At the point in the circus where all the clowns pile out of the VW Beetle, we'll have to add a few acrobats and lion tamers to beef up the numbers. Maybe the plate spinner and the knife thrower.

Desperate times. It's enough to wipe the smile off any clown's face, but of course you can't do that because it's painted on.



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Various reasons are offered for the decline but the main one is attrition. The old clowns are dying off, and there aren't enough young ones ready to take over. Young people who think they're funny go into stand-up comedy, where you don't need a red nose, just a potty mouth.

But I think the real culprit is Stephen King, who wrote about a creepy clown called Pennywise in *It*, the scariest novel ever written, back in 1986. Pennywise offered kids balloons and then ate them (the kids, not the balloons).

Clowns have never been the same since. Instead of lovable old Bozo, we have Krusty of the Simpsons, the disreputable echo of

Pennywise.

Of course, there was the notorious real-life creepy clown John Wayne Gacy — the Chicago serial killer who was re-

sponsible for at least 33 deaths throughout the '70s of young men and boys. When he wasn't murdering people and burying them under his porch, he entertained children as Pogo the Clown.

After Pogo, Pennywise and Krusty, no one in their right mind would want to be a clown.

It's too bad, really. A clown can happy up a birthday party, but these days Princess doesn't want some dumb old clown; she wants Justin Bieber — and the way he's going, he'll be doing birthday parties by July.

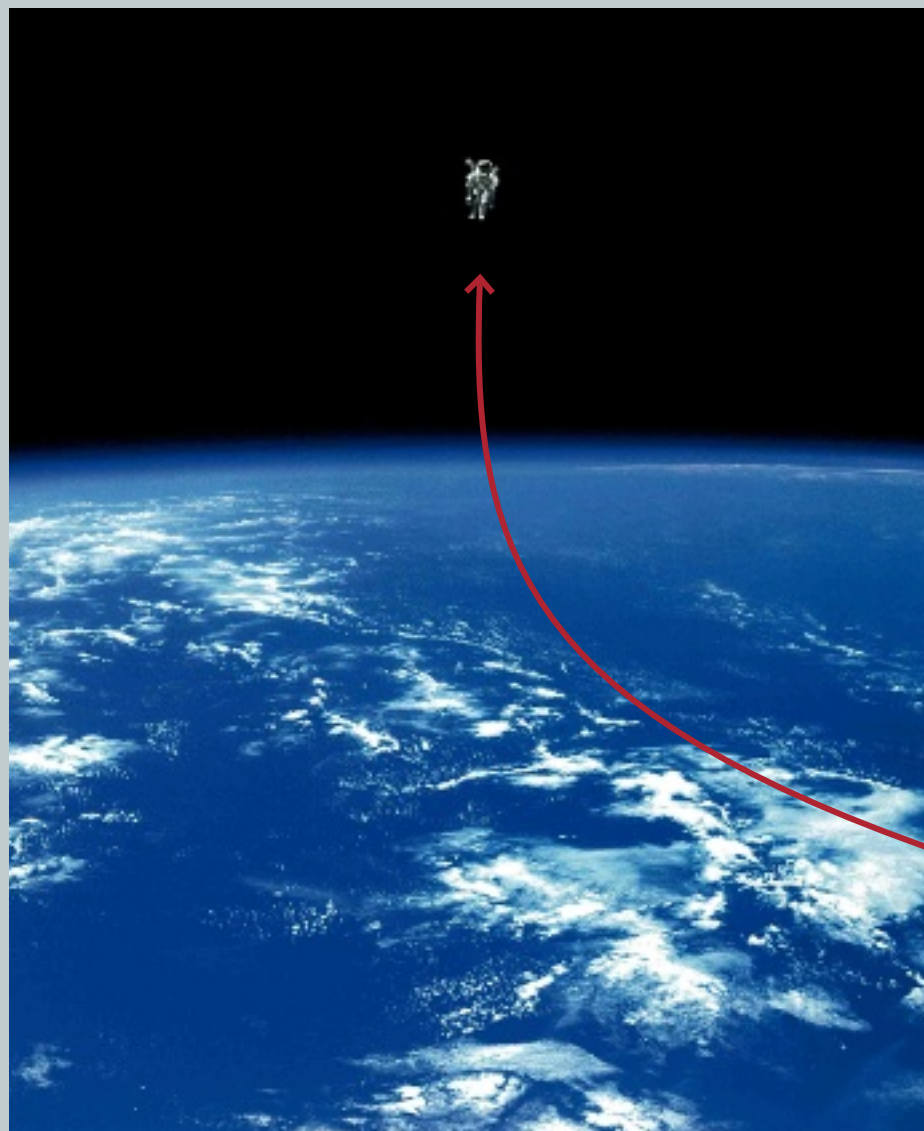
Talk about creepy clowns.

If this keeps up they may have to lower the standards at clown boot camp. Yep, at last year's Ringling Bros. Clown College (it's hard to resist the urge to spell everything with a "K," as in Klown Kollege) only 14 out of 531 applicants were selected to attend boot camp (Clown Feet 101? Introductory Pratl-falls?) and only 11 of those were hired on to the circus.

At that rate they'll have to retire the VW Beetle. Smart car, maybe?

ZOOM

Oscar-worthy picture by NASA



COURTESY NASA

Gravity images outshine movie

Space drama *Gravity* was the big winner on Oscar night — now savour the movie's inspiration. NASA has released spectacular real-life space photos that are strikingly reminiscent of the jaw-dropping scenes and panoramas from the movie. The space agency tweeted the set of archive images under #RealGravity. **METRO**

Astronaut says

"I told (Sandra Bullock) that I had long hair, and if you pulled a hair out and pushed it against something, you could move yourself across the space station. That's how little force it takes."

NASA Expedition 26 astronaut Cady Coleman, explaining to *Gravity* star Sandra Bullock what life is like in micro gravity.

Art imitates life

In this 1984 image that showcases the chilling yet beautiful isolation of space, NASA astronaut Bruce McCandless II was photographed further away from his spaceship than any other astronaut in history. He was able to do so thanks to a nitrogen jet-propelled backpack. He was 98 metres from the Challenger orbiter. **METRO**

Clickbait



ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Despite the best efforts of a certain lamentable patent troll, podcasting is still going strong and the diversity of presentations, subjects and gimmicks becomes more diverse by the day. Here are three can't-miss subscriptions on iTunes.



Ron Sexsmith GETTY IMAGES

Sodajerker:

A British songwriting team turns their love of music into an excuse to talk songwriting with some of their heroes. Nick Lowe, Johnny Marr, Rufus Wainwright and Ron Sexsmith are just a few of the many to sit down to talk about their lives, their feuds and, of course, their songs.

Welcome To Night Vale:

We've already mentioned the wonderfully weird premise of a community radio station broadcasting from a small town besieged by supernatural events and the machinations of mysterious, all-powerful figures. However, I still meet people who have never heard of it — even though they have a perfectly good Internet connection. Absurd.

IRL Talk:

Formerly known as Geek Friday, the new name manages to hang onto the Internet jargon while not scaring away those too delicate to handle being called a *spit* geek. But the material remains the same — witty talk about whatever foolishness or tech is hot this week, alongside evergreen topics like the loathsomeness of trolls or the great butlers of pop culture history.

Comments

RE: Proper Spelling Is Sexy, says Metro's Jessica Napier, published March 4

there is nothing wrong with "donut". there's nothing wrong with "text-speak", you write as if something vaguely horrible will happen if we

don't quickly fix all these terrible things that are destroying language. there is no evidence anywhere that we're all being hopelessly confused by the lack of a comma. linguists know this perfectly well, but authors like Lynne Truss only fan the flames of this manufactured "grammar police state". ugh.

Hank posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: ottawaletters@metronews.ca

Creator goes WABAC to Rocky & Bullwinkle well

Improbable history. Time-travelling cult TV cartoon characters get big-screen treatment



**IN
FOCUS**

Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Jay Ward may not be a household name, but many of the characters he created are.

As the grand poobah at Jay Ward Productions he produced the animated television shows that gave us Rocky & Bullwinkle, Dudley Do-Right, Peabody and Sherman and George of the Jungle among others.

His cartoons weren't just for kids. The Los Angeles Times wrote, "The good ones, which Ward was a master at creating, worked at two levels: One direct and another wonderfully satiric."

This weekend his characters take over the big screen in *Mr. Peabody & Sherman*, an animated film starring the voices of *Modern Family*'s Ty Burrell, Stephen Colbert and Leslie Mann.

Mr. Peabody & Sherman isn't the first film based on Ward's characters.

In a 1992 television movie (originally shot in 1988 for theatrical release) SCTV alum Dave Thomas played Boris Badenov, "world's greatest no-goodnik." With his partner-in-crime Natasha Fatale (Sally Kellerman) he leaves



Rocky & Bullwinkle spinoff *Mr. Peabody & Sherman* stars the voices of *Modern Family*'s Ty Burrell, Stephen Colbert and Leslie Mann. CONTRIBUTED

Finding their 'wayback'

Based on Peabody's *Improbable History* segment from the *Rocky and Bullwinkle Show*, the movie sees the duo use the WABAC machine to ping pong through time, interacting with everyone from Marie Antoinette to King Tut to Leonardo da Vinci and Albert Einstein.

Pottsylvania for the United States to retrieve a microchip. TV Guide said, "as a

90-minute feature film, it's at least 80 minutes too long," but it's worth a gander to see one of the rare live action performances of June Foray, the original voice of Rocky.

Brendan Fraser brought two of Ward's characters to life, George of the Jungle and Dudley Do-Right.

George of the Jungle is a riff on Tarzan. He's a boy raised in the jungle by an ape (John Cleese) but who never mastered the art of swinging from tree to tree. Rotten Tomatoes gives it a 56% Fresh Rating, but the film

remains most memorable for the catchy "George, George/George of the Jungle/Strong as he can be/ Watch out for that tree," theme song by the Presidents of the United States of America.

Two years later Fraser was back in another Ward inspired movie about a bumbling Canadian Mountie called Dudley Do-Right who "always gets his man."

Co-starring with Sarah Jessica Parker and Alfred Molina, the story saw Dudley track his nemesis, the depraved Snidely Whiplash. Bad

reviews — USA Today called it a "Dead-carcass spinoff of Jay Ward's animated TV favorite" — doomed the movie, but the character lives on as part of an amusement park ride called Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls at the Islands of Adventure theme park.

Finally, despite a big name cast — Jason Alexander, Rene Russo and John Goodman — *The Adventures of Rocky & Bullwinkle* bombed at the box office despite Robert De Niro doing a take on his famous "You talkin' to me?" speech from *Taxi Driver*.

Raising the goofy in the Big Brother house



The new crew of *Big Brother Canada* season two. CONTRIBUTED

The global *Big Brother* franchise is known for encouraging its outlandish participants to lie, manipulate and scheme their way through the game.

In the Canadian spinoff, the reality show also wants the backstabbing cast to provide plenty of laughs, and producer John Brunton says that meant seeking out some seriously funny house guests.

"Comedy combined with all of the drama and the tears and the heart-and-soul and the absolute insanity of it all, I think it's an important part of the

In the scheme of things

Big Brother Canada returns Wednesday on Slice and Global, airing three nights a week, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays on Slice.

mix," says Brunton, going on to compare the Canuck version to incarnations around the world.

"Perhaps we view that as an important part of the mix more than people do in some other places." The Slice series returns

Wednesday with a whole new crew of attention-seekers ranging in age from a 20-year-old student to a 43-year-old Cape Town refugee.

Most of the 14 houseguests are in their 20s, with a 15th contender set to be revealed during the premiere.

Brunton says one of the surprises of last year's debut was how goofy things got — when people weren't having tantrums or tear-filled breakdowns, that is.

He's hoping for more of the same this year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Broken Bells: Holding on For Life?

No expiry date.
Superduo pledge to continue making music together indefinitely

As The Shins' James Mercer and highly sought-after producer Danger Mouse, whose real name is Brian Burton, were preparing their second album as Broken Bells, they noticed some new benefits to their increasingly worked-in collaboration.

"It's easier to be blunt," said Mercer with a laugh in Toronto, seated in a hotel conference room next to his bandmate. "(Brian can say): 'I don't like that.' And I'm just like, 'OK. On we go.'"

The duo had travelled north for a pair of shows — Monday in Toronto and Tuesday in Montreal — a little over a month following the release of *After the Disco*.

The band's sophomore effort opened at No. 3 on the Canadian Billboard chart, its highest placement worldwide ("Better taste up here," murmured Mercer when asked to muse on their north-of-the-border success).

True to its title — referencing the post-party comedown — *After the Disco* is a rather down affair.

Where the first record mixed Mercer's winsome whine with eclectic ear-candy arrangements polished to a lavish sheen by Burton,

its follow-up varies its mood more judiciously, even as certain tunes (especially the title track) dial the tempo upward. If the sound of the record is slightly different, the process behind it really wasn't.

Again, Mercer went down to L.A. and stayed in Burton's guest room. Together they worked every day at Burton's studio, staying up late into the night penning lyrics together.

Largely, it seems as though the collaboration is fuelled by their friendship, which has only grown closer since they linked up to work on the first album.

And Burton — who has produced albums for a range of high-profile artists including Norah Jones, Beck, The Black Keys and Cee Lo Green (as the duo Gnarls Barkley) — says Mercer is indeed easier to work with than most.

"This one, there's no politics involved," said Burton, who first gained wide notice for the Beatles/Jay-Z mashup *The Grey Album*.

"There's no watching what you say or what you do so much. It's just me and James."

Discussions of Burton's personal studio might conjure images of a plush musical retreat — but it was actually much more modest.

"It was like a crappy lawyer's office," said a laughing Mercer. "Small and dingy. ... It was really that sort of innocuous suburban strip mall office type of thing."

"The vocal booth is pretty hilarious," he added. "There's an auto body shop right behind where the vocal booth sits ... (so) you can hear someone grinding the bondo off (a car)."

Mercer, who has worked in isolation through much of his run creating witty, affecting music with The Shins,

Quoted

"We both have that affinity for melancholic music."

James Mercer, on the mood of *After the Disco*

seems to relish having a part-

ner in Burton. For his part, Burton also prizes Broken Bells as a creative outlet over which he has uncommon control.

Although both artists are extremely busy they're insistent that Broken Bells is a going concern.

"It seems like we could keep doing this forever, real-

ly," Mercer said.

"It would be no different than some band coming in on their second album and asking if they're planning on doing it forever — they'd probably look at you like you're kind of nuts," added Burton. "We're a band, why wouldn't we?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS



James Mercer, left, and Danger Mouse (a.k.a. Brian Burton) of Broken Bells.
SONY MUSIC CANADA

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Zac says no, no, no



Zac Efron

While Zac Efron may have attended the Academy Awards festivities Sunday night with a sober coach in tow, recent rehab resident Selena Gomez reportedly let loose at the Vanity Fair Oscar party, sources tell Radar Online. The Spring Breakers star was “drinking constantly throughout the entire party when I saw her,” a source says. “She was having a grand old time, and towards the tail end she was stumbling in her heels and almost toppled right over.” In January, Gomez slipped off to an Arizona rehab facility for a two-week stay, though her rep said it was “not for substance abuse.”



Cameron Diaz ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Cameron and Sofia finally Spike Jonze of contention

It took more than a decade, but Cameron Diaz has reportedly forgiven director Sofia Coppola for the perceived slight of Anna Faris’ ditzy actress character in *Lost in Translation*, suspected by many to be based on Diaz as retaliation for her flirtation with Coppola’s then-husband, Spike Jonze. “Sofia and Cameron have had an incredibly difficult relationship since 1999, the year Sofia married Spike. It only got worse when the film came out and it became pretty well-known that part of the movie was based on their real-life feud,” a source tells Radar

Online — though Coppola has downplayed the comparison. “There has been a thaw in the relationship between Sofia and Cameron in recent months. They had drinks this summer and cleared the air, possibly even paving the way for a future collaboration.”

But the *Lost in Translation* damage isn’t completely repaired, as Diaz is apparently still pretty miffed at Faris for her performance. “Cameron still refuses to talk to Anna,” the source adds. “And she has never publicly addressed the movie scene in question. It’s an off-limits topic.”

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Lena Dunham

Lena takes on Betty and Veronica

Lena Dunham is trading her usual clique of *Girls* for two other ladies: Betty and Veronica. Archie comics chief creative officer Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa has asked Dunham to write four new stories for the 75-year-old comic book series, and she readily agreed.

“We heard she was an Archie fanatic, and we run in similar circles, so I was able to reach out to her,” Aguirre-Sacasa, who was also a writer on *Glee*, tells Comic Book Resources.

His lips are sealed as to what the new storyline will be, but he did say it is very contemporary and gives the classic comic book a unique spin.

Thicke hopes reunion with Patton pending



Robin Thicke

Robin Thicke is pulling out all the stops in trying to win back estranged wife Paula Patton. Following a quick trip to Vancouver to try to make things work with Patton, Thicke has been using his live shows as a soapbox to proclaim his love, according to E! News. In Virginia last week, he told the crowd, “Me and my wife separated, but I’m trying to get my girl back” before launching into his hit *Lost Without U*. And this week, while performing in Atlantic City, he added Al Green’s classic *Let’s Stay Together* to his set list, preceding it with another heartfelt monologue: “Never stop believing and you never stop loving. And even if it is over, make sure you treat each other right. Treat your family right,” he told the crowd.

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ScarJo will be rocking the cradle with French fiancé



THE
WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Scarlett Johansson, 29, is expecting a baby with her French fiancé, Romain Dauriac, E! News confirmed.

Not much is known about Johansson’s baby daddy. Alternate reports have him as a journalist, the head of a creative agency and an advertising director. Whoever he is, he has excellent taste: Johansson showed off her ginormous vintage art

deco engagement ring at the Venice Film Festival in September.

Did ScarJo know she was pregnant when she talked with the *Daily Mail* in December? “I would like to have my own family, that would be nice,” she said. “They say it’s never the right time and I am sure that’s true, but I think you have to plan it like anything else.” Looks like that time is now.

But what does the happy news mean for Johansson’s next turn as Black Widow in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*? The actress is set to begin work on the sequel to the 2012 hit on April 5 following her promotional tour for *Captain America: the Winter Soldier*, and while Marvel Studios has no comment about adjusting her schedule, an insider says, “They’re going to fast-track her scenes.”

Finding the magic in Mexico

Loreto. This sleepy seaside village is the destination developers forgot — so get there before the hordes do

Efforts to turn the Mexican seaside village of Loreto into a major destination have been going on for years. So far, though, the results have been limited, and that in itself makes it worth visiting.

Loreto is already a gem — a historic town nestled between gold-hued mountains and the blue Sea of Cortez. It's known mainly to whale watchers (late winter), sport fishermen (year-round) and snowbirds who drive down from British Columbia.

Loreto was earmarked for tourism development 30 years ago, part of an initiative that also included Cancun, Ixtapa, parts of Oaxaca and Los Cabos. While the others flourished, the development of Loreto faltered. In a renewed effort two years ago, Mexico's tourism agency gave Loreto its "Magic Town" moniker, a label to promote places notable for natural beauty, cultural riches or historical relevance. Still, the international airport here welcomed only about 40,000 tourists last year, compared to the million or so who flew to Los Cabos, 480 kilometres to the south.

And there are no cruise ships. Instead, there is the Loreto Bay National Marine Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site made up of five islands accessible only by boat.

After a 90-minute flight from Los Angeles — the only U.S. gateway at present — you will find a town seemingly frozen by the economic downturn, with half-built hotels and empty storefronts.



Loreto's new promenade makes for a pleasurable waterfront stroll. PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Enjoy views of an 18th century church in San Javier.

You'll also find a bit of "old" Mexico. There are a fair number of people who speak no English, friendly ex-pats happy to offer suggestions, a scatter-

ing of small festivals, a soccer stadium with spirited games, and a local mariachi band that plays in khakis, not costumes. Following are some highlights.

History

Loreto became the first Spanish settlement on the Baja California peninsula when Jesuit missionaries established the Mission of Our Lady of Loreto in 1697. The baroque-style church still functions, and is used for weddings. An adjacent Mission Museum highlights not only the religious past, but also the political history, as Loreto served as the regional capital from 1697 to 1777.

An 18th-century church popular with pilgrims is located an hour away, high in the Sierra de la Giganta mountains in the hamlet of San Javier. Lunch is available at a restaurant in the village, which only got full-time electricity in 2012.

Waterfront

A new, multimillion-dollar promenade makes for a pleasant waterfront stroll and provides for spectacular views east towards the islands. It passes a

Dining

- **Canipole.** A spot that has no menu, no roof and an open kitchen, and provides traditional blankets for diners to wear when temperatures fall. The guacamole is made tableside, followed by the daily special, which almost always includes some divine mole.
- **Mexico Lindo Y Que Rico.** Great chili rellenos and a two-metre shark sculpture that's beaded in a classic Huichol style and depicts scenes of Loreto and the surrounding mountains.

lighthouse and a small marina, where skippered pangas (small open boats with outboard motors) can be rented for about \$100 for fishing, bird-watching, wildlife-viewing or a lift to the white-sand beach on Coronado Island.

Farther down, the sidewalk runs past a city beach, empty during the January chill but for the permanent thatched-roof palapas that provide relief from the sun.

Beaches

The best beaches are a short drive from Loreto, but the roads are good and the travel easy. Thirty kilometres south is the community of Ensenada Blanca, which undoubtedly has the most spectacular views of the marine park. You can access the beach through a time-share property, the Villa Del Palmar. It sells a visitor pass for \$65 US per person, which includes unlimited food and drinks, and use of the pools and beach from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Surf parks are making waves

Travel trend. Artificial waves can make surfing more friendly for the masses, but will it corrupt a sport that's at one with nature?

Some of surfing's biggest names aren't just catching waves. They're also talking about making them.

Surf parks — massive pools with repeating, artificial waves — are the latest buzzword in the surf community, as everyone from top athletes to retailers look for ways to expand the sport, boost sales and create a standardized way to train that could help surfing earn an Olympic pedigree.

"Mother Nature stipulates that surfing only can occur where waves can be born. When man takes his hand to forming the waves, it unlocks the potential of surfing anywhere. And that is the most powerful thing," said Doug Palladini, president of the Surf Industry Manufacturers Association. Last November, dozens of industry leaders, surfers and investors met in Laguna Beach in Southern California for the first annual Surf Park Summit to spark interest in a business proposition that could breathe life into a sport that struggled during the recession.

About 50 per cent of independent mom-and-pop surf retailers — the heart and soul of surf culture — shut down worldwide during the recession



Professional surfer Gabriel Medina of Brazil, back, rides the machine-made wave at WaveHouse San Diego.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The problem is, surf culture is about so much more than just riding a wave. It is about having a genuine respect and connection with the ocean."

Surfer and blogger Zac Heisey addressing the debate on his blog, In the Name of Surf

and those that survived face an increasingly saturated market that is limited by geography.

Enter the dream surf park, a two-acre wave pool capable of generating anything from tiny beginner ripples to 10-foot barrels every minute, with every wave the same. Customers would pay by the number of waves to learn the sport or refine their technique and learn new tricks.

The prospect has surf board manufacturers and apparel retailers salivating at the thought of new markets for surf gear

and clothing in land-locked places like Kansas or Nebraska. But parks would also be prime real estate for sponsored surfing competitions that would draw both eyeballs and dollars.

There are tantalizing what-ifs: A national surfing league, much like the NBA, with feeder teams and city affiliations. Live, televised surfing competitions staged with predictable waves in a massive surf arena.

Some even believe surf parks could propel the sport into the Olympics, a dream that has so far proven elusive.

"Without man-made waves, there will not be Olympic surfing," said Fernando Aguerre, president of the International Surfing Association. "It's the ultimate wave-sharing that you can imagine."

Olympics aside, everyday surfers who already live near the beach say even they would use the parks as a supplement to the ocean, to refine their skills on a consistent wave or get in a few rides when the natural surf is bad.

"In a park, you can always get in a perfect position, the wave will always be perfect and you can really work on your surfing," said Cliff Char, 54, who's been surfing 15 years near his hometown of Seal Beach.

Detractors, however, worry that in the rush to surf parks, the sport will lose its soul.

Betting on artificial waves, they say, will sanitize and commercialize a pastime the most passionate surfers describe as a solitary, rugged pursuit where athletes and nature commune. They say the sport will lose sight of its culture and history if the next generation learns to rip on chlorinated water.

"The problem is, surf culture is about so much more than just riding a wave. It is about having a genuine respect and connection with the ocean," said Zac Heisey, a surfer and freelance writer who addressed the debate on his blog, In the Name of Surf.

Others are concerned that the energy required to power waves big enough for surf parks will contribute to global warming. Momentum around surf parks has been growing since the 1960s, but fewer than a dozen serious parks currently exist in locations from Florida to Malaysia — and cost and wave technology have always been stumbling blocks.

That technology has now advanced enough to make parks economically viable.

Some of the biggest and best-known include Disney's Typhoon Lagoon in Florida, Wadi Adventure in United Arab Emirates and Wavegarden, a private research and development site tucked away in Spain's Basque country.

A park that would attract serious surfers would run between \$15 million and \$25 million US to build and need to be at least two acres in size to allow surfers to paddle in.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deal

Eurostar discounts

Until April 2, Rail Europe is giving 20 per cent off select high-speed Eurostar train tickets between London and Paris or Brussels. Those who book also get 10 per cent off London and Paris city passes, which are good for discounted tours, theatre tickets and restaurants, and for jumping to the head of the line at some sites. Visit raileurope.ca.

How-to

Mind your money

1. Always travel with a small amount of the currency of the country you're visiting. 2. Tell both the bank and your credit card company where and when you're going. 3. Take left-over cash home and start a currency kit so you'll have money ready for next time.

Trend

The Poshtel

Backpackers in Britain have never had it so good — with the introduction of the posh hostel — or poshtel. The U.K.'s Youth Hostel Association has spent more than \$40 million on renovations to key hostels. Luxe perks now include things like en-suite bathrooms and bridal suites. Visit yha.org.uk. DOUG WALLACE/METRO

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Bucket list



The Himalayas

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What's the deal?
Metro's globe-trotting columnist offers advice on common quandaries



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
lifem@metronews.ca

This week I'm answering some reader questions about travel.

Heading to Europe this summer. Where can I get the best bang for my buck?

According to Hotels.com's Hotel Price Index, which pinpoints cities where you can find affordable hotel rooms, you should be looking at capitals that all start with the letter B for the best value: think Brussels, Berlin and Budapest. Lisbon also makes the under \$200-per-night cut. Additionally, the Portuguese capital offers great restaurant food at reasonable prices.

Can I get a prescription filled abroad?



Want to do Europe on the cheap? The cities that start with B — like Budapest — have the best hotel deals. ISTOCK

Pharmaceutical regulations are different in each country, so getting a supply of medicine on foreign soil isn't simple. Ensure the pills you are looking for are legal in your host country and know the generic name and dosage for the medication. Find an accredited,

English-speaking physician through the local Canadian consulate or the International Association for Medical Assistance to Travellers (iamat.org).

Doctors, who are members, will often make house calls to hotels. Be sure to fill the prescription at a phar-

macy recommended by that doctor or attached to a clinic or hospital, as counterfeit drugs have become increasingly common abroad.

Should you tip hotel room attendants?

Absolutely, they're often

forgotten. I like to leave \$2 to \$5 per day, depending on extra touches provided, on the bed with a note of thanks. If you prefer to leave one tip at the end of a longer stay, leave an envelope at the front desk. Note your name and room number and dates of stay and ask to have it divided among all the staff who serviced your room.

Any tips on avoiding lost luggage?

When booking your trip, try a direct flight. If it's not possible, ensure you have ample time between flights for your bags to be transferred.

Book your trip on the same airline so if a bag is lost you are dealing with one airline versus two that may try and push the blame onto each other. Label your baggage with your name and contact information including cellphone number. For security reasons, use your work address, not your home address, and put labels on the inside and outside of your luggage in case the tags get ripped off.

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Warm up and get your vitamin C fix

Beef and Kale Soup.

The superfood is often associated with being turned into crispy chips, but it also works great in main dishes



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

FLASH FOOD



From your fridge
to your table in
30 minutes or less

Kale is a great source of vitamin C and folate, so a little packs a punch.

I love cooking with kale and especially adding it to soups and pastas. Try adding chopped kale to your next batch of any of homemade soups for some added nutrients and flavour.

In this soup, the combina-

Ingredients

- 1 tsp (5 ml) canola oil
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) each ground cumin and coriander
- 4 cups (1 l) beef broth
- 2 cups (500 ml) lightly packed finely shredded kale
- 1 strip loin grilling steak (about 8 oz/250 g)
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- Pinch freshly ground black pepper



This recipe makes three to four servings. EMILY RICHARDS

tion with the beef is perfect and subtle. It makes a hearty soup perfect for a cold winter's night.

If you let the soup cook longer, the kale continues to soften and cook flavour right into the soup. Add a dash of hot pepper sauce at the table for those who may want to add some extra

heat to the soup.

1. Heat oil in a pot over medium heat and cook onion, garlic, cumin and coriander for about 8 minutes or until softened and beginning to turn golden. Add stock and bring to boil. Add kale and cook, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, trim any fat from steak and discard. Slice steak into thin strips and cut strips in half crosswise. Add to soup along with beans and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally for about 10 minutes or until kale is tender and steak is slightly pink inside.

Cooking tips

- You can use two boneless, skinless chicken breasts for the beef (sliced and cooked until no longer pink inside). You can also use spinach or Swiss chard for the kale.
- What do you do with leftover kale? Kale chips! They're crispy, low calorie, full of great nutrition, and an easy way to increase your intake of micronutrients.

**START TO
FINISH
ABOUT 25
MINUTES**

You don't have to be so kneady

1. Heat the oven to 350 F.

2. Place walnuts in shallow baking dish, then place in oven on the middle shelf to toast 10 to 12 minutes. Set aside to cool.

3. Once nuts cool, in bowl stir with both flours, salt, yeast and rosemary. Add water and stir briefly with wooden spoon, just until dough is barely mixed, about 30 seconds. The dough should be wet and tacky. If it is not, add 1 to 2 tablespoons more water. Cover bowl and let it rise at room temperature for 12 to 18 hours, or until it is more than double in bulk.

4. After the dough has risen, generously sprinkle a work surface with flour and gently, with the help of a plastic bench scraper, scoop out the dough onto the counter.

5. Working very quickly, with floured hands, fold dough inward to centre on all sides to form seam. Turn dough over to form a round with the seam on the bottom. Generously sprinkle a clean kitchen towel with flour. Lay the towel flat on the counter and set the dough on top, seam down. Sprinkle the top of the dough lightly with flour and loosely fold the ends

of towel over the dough.

6. Let dough rise in a warm place for 1 to 2 hours, or until almost doubled in bulk. You will know it is ready when you poke the dough and it holds your imprint. If the dough bounces back, it is not ready.

7. About 30 minutes before you think dough is ready, heat oven to 475 F. Put a rack in the lower third of the oven, and place a covered 4 1/2- to 5 1/2-quart casserole dish in the oven to heat.

8. When the dough has risen, carefully remove the casserole

dish from the oven and remove the lid. With the aid of the tea towel, flip the dough gently, seam side up, into the casserole, put the lid on the casserole and return it to the oven. Bake for 30 minutes. Carefully remove the lid and bake until the bread has browned nicely, another 15 to 30 minutes.

9. Remove the casserole dish from the oven and use a spatula or dish towel to carefully transfer the bread to a rack to cool completely before slicing. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON**
AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.



This No-Knead Walnut-Rosemary Bread recipe makes one loaf of bread. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (50 g) coarsely chopped walnuts
- 2 cups (266 g) bread flour
- 1 cup (133 g) whole-wheat flour
- 1 1/4 tsp (8 g) table salt
- 3/4 tsp (2 g) instant or rapid-rise yeast
- 2 tbsp (6 g) chopped rosemary
- 1 1/3 cups (350 g) cool water (55 F to 65 F)
- Additional flour, wheat bran or cornmeal, for dusting

The ABCs of nabbing some 1,2,3s: money in your post-secondary pocket

Find your financing.

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Everyone knows that school is expensive, which is why there are number of different forms of financial assistance available to students at all levels.

You may not think there's a funding package out there for you, but chances are a little research will show you otherwise.

It can take a bit of digging to find scholarships or grants you're eligible for, but it's a small price to pay for the chance to score some free cash.

Scholarships, bursaries and grants

Scholarships, bursaries and grants are three of the most common application-based sources of funding available to students.

Although all three are monetary awards given to students to help cover education-related expenses, they are usually disbursed according to different criteria.

Scholarships are generally based on merit, bursaries are typically based on fi-



Cast your net wide and don't be afraid to shout your need for a little monetary help to the world. COLOURBOX

nancial need and grants are most often awarded for a specific project or program.

How to apply

To find out which awards are available to you, talk to your school's registrar or main administrative office. They should either have information about student awards or be able to direct you to the department that does.

Many schools also host a student award information session at the beginning of the school year to tell students about financial aid

offered by the university or college — equip yourself with a pen and notepad and get there early, as seats tend to fill up fast.

After you've checked with your school, do some research online to find out about awards offered by the government, foundations and corporations.

Work-study programs

Many schools offer co-op or work-study programs to give students a chance to gain hands-on experience

in their chosen field before they graduate.

How to apply

Check with your department to make sure you're eligible for the program, then ask if it's OK for you to take a paid position and still get course credit.

Once you've got the go-ahead, start contacting potential employers to find out about current opportunities or try talking to students who've already done a placement to see if they know of any paid positions you can apply for.

Be proactive

Once you know what scholarship, bursary and grant opportunities exist, make a list of which ones you plan to apply for and what each application requires. You'll usually need to fill out some kind of form and provide transcripts, letters of reference and possibly an application letter or essay.

- Jot down the deadlines for each application in a calendar or planner and plan ahead to make sure you submit your applications on time — the competition can be pretty fierce and a late application will most likely mean you won't be considered.

This work experience is a great opportunity to position yourself for future employment with a given office or department — it's a great opportunity to show off your skills and build a professional network on campus. Future positions may also have a higher compensation rate than your work-study program. Be sure to work hard and make your interest known.

Internships/apprenticeships

If your school does not offer a work-study or co-op program, consider applying for an internship or ap-

prenticeship on your own. This is a great way to get relevant work experience in your field and it can provide a (modest) income to help you pay for school.

How to apply

Look for companies or organizations in your area that are connected to your program of study.

Contact the manager or human resources department to express your interest in the work they do and ask if they have any need for an extra set of hands in the coming months.

Be sure to emphasize that you're passionate about what you're studying and you're hoping to learn more about the career you're pursuing by working "in the field."

If you're still struggling to pay for school, consider taking on a part-time job to help you cover your costs. It can feel overwhelming to see your tuition, textbook and living costs add up as you work towards completing a post-secondary program, but there is help out there.

Spend some time doing your research to learn about the funding that's available — you'll have to invest at least a few hours in each award or position you apply for, but it could be well worth your effort in the end.

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I believe that I'm being bullied

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Are you being bullied at work? If your answer is yes, you're not alone. While employers are working harder than ever to create safe and inclusive workplaces for their employees, cases of workplace bullying persist.

Why?

There are numerous factors that contribute to the persistence of workplace bullying, including:

- Lack of awareness of the effects of bullying
- Inaccurate perception of performance management (i.e. the belief that pushing employees will deliver better and faster results)

- Workplace cultures that breed incivility

Whatever the reason, it is important to recognize that workplace bullying is not tolerated under the law.

For example, Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) sets out the rights and duties for occupational health and safety of all parties in the workplace. These rights and duties include protection for employees from workplace violence and harassment.

What constitutes workplace harassment?

Workplace harassment under OHSA means engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct against a worker that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome. It can include:

- Unwelcome words or actions that are known or should be known to be offensive, embarrassing, humiliating or demeaning to a worker or group of workers.



Does your workplace seem more like a warzone of late? Keep track of any hair-raising incidents in case you're ever required to report them. COLOURBOX

- Behaviour that intimidates, isolates, or even discriminates against the targeted individual(s). Common examples are yelling, targeting, gossiping, shunning, slamming doors, throwing objects, profanity and abusive language, and so on.

If the harassment is based on such grounds as age, gender,

sexual orientation, sex, marital status, family status, disability, race or ethnic origin, then it may also be a violation of your province's human rights code.

A word of caution

It's important to keep in mind that not all actions and conduct will amount to bullying and/or harassment. Reasonable action or conduct by an employer,

Where do I go from here?

If you are determined that you're being bullied, what can you do?

- You may wish to report the behaviour to your organization's human resources department. There will likely be a policy on workplace harassment or respectful behaviour in the workplace, which sets out the organization's standards and the process for initiating complaints.
- Your organization will then investigate your complaint, which entails gathering your evidence, the evidence of the alleged bully, as well as the evidence of any relevant witnesses.

done in an uncivil manner.

Examples could include:

- Changes in work assignments
- Scheduling, job assessment and evaluation
- A civil disagreement
- Legitimate performance management
- Implementation of dress codes
- Disciplinary action

It is therefore important to critically assess the nature of the behaviour before concluding that it is harassment or bullying.

While it is difficult to face workplace bullying, realizing that there are places you can turn — i.e. friends, family and now through the law, your employer by way of its obligations to respond to harassment — is a crucial first step.

PARISA NIKFARJAM IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH RUBIN THOMLINSON LLP. **DISCLAIMER: THIS ARTICLE IS FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS LEGAL ADVICE.**

manager or supervisor that is part of his or her normal work function is not normally workplace harassment, unless it is

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What's an employee to do?

Describe so I can thrive.

Are you unsure about what your job actually entails? Here's how to hunt down the appropriate answers

DAVID SINGH

life@metronews.ca

If you think about it, job descriptions hold a lot of power. That simple list of bullet points on a job posting will largely determine whether you apply or not. If the right words and phrases are listed, you'll likely proceed with the application.

And let's say you eventually get that job. Now, your expectations heading into your brand new role will be primarily based on that initial job description you so eagerly viewed.

But according to Fiorella Callocchia, a human resources consultant, that's where misconceptions come into play.

"Job descriptions aren't that



If your workload has suddenly gained some serious weight, it may be time to have a powwow with the powers that be. COLOURBOX

easy to write," says Callocchia, founder of HR Impact, a company that provides human resources consulting and leadership development services. "No job description can capture every little nuance of the job."

Callocchia says there are various factors that influence the accuracy of job descriptions. For example, smaller companies may not have clearly defined roles. Or perhaps the hiring manager who penned the job posting may not understand what exactly the position requires.

The end result could mean

that you arrive at a new job and suddenly find yourself asking, "What did I sign up for?" It could be that the job is either much more or less than what you bargained for.

If you're in this predicament, Callocchia says not to worry. You're not alone.

"It's not unusual for there to be some type of gap between what's in writing and what's actually required," she said. "Until you get there and actually do the job, you don't know."

If you're uncomfortable with your current job duties or lack thereof, Callocchia ad-

Statement of the union

Addressing the issue of inconsistent job duties in a workplace with a union is very different than in a non-union environment, says Justin Tetreault, associate lawyer with employment/labour law firm Grosman, Grosman & Gale LLP.

- "In a unionized workplace, job duties are usually specifically detailed in a collective agreement," he says. "In a situation where an employee is not being assigned the appropriate tasks, they should speak to their union steward who will be able to initiate a grievance on their behalf."

vices that the most important thing you can do is request a one-on-one meeting with your manager. That's obvious, but she says the key to handling it successfully depends on several factors.

First, before the meeting even takes place, you need to consider what it is you want.

"Is your objective to help them understand that the expectations far exceed the job descriptions (or vice-versa)?" Callocchia says. "Are you looking for money or are you looking to just get clarification?"

When it's time to meet, be wary of what you say, as you don't want to come across as a whiner.

"Come with potential solutions and ideas on how to solve the problem," Callocchia says. "Companies don't want people that complain. Be constructive and give ideas on how they can make it right. Don't just dump on the manager and say 'Here, solve my problem, you're the manager.' That's not collaboration."

Language will also be key in the meeting. Callocchia says to ask questions like, "Where would you like me to spend more or less time? Can you help me understand where the priorities are and where the focus of my time and efforts should be?"

Parental poll

Making it big for Mom and Pop

When it comes to parents' hopes for their children, it seems that disappointment is passed down from generation to generation.

Two-thirds (67 per cent) of Canadian parents are uncertain that their children will fulfill their hopes, according to a new national survey commissioned by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada (BBBSC) and Invesco Canada Ltd.

Moreover, 83 per cent of parents are unsure that they achieved the aspirations their own parents had for them.

The poll identified a number of barriers to achieving parental hopes, including the following:

- Negative emotional states or behaviours (29 per cent)
- Family financial situation (18 per cent)
- Stress at home (17 per cent)
- Difficulty in school (15 per cent) **METRO**



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Roberto Luongo is on the outs in Vancouver after the Canucks traded him to the Panthers on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Canucks throw goalie for a Luup

NHL. Luongo era in Vancouver ends with trade to Panthers

The Vancouver Canucks have traded goaltender Roberto Luongo to the Florida Panthers, ending a roller-coaster saga that has gone on for almost three years.

Luongo's unhappiness in Vancouver since the 2011 Stanley Cup final included being usurped as the starter by Cory Schneider, demanding to be traded, complaining that his \$64-million US, 12-year contract "sucks" seeing Schneider being dealt away.

Coach John Tortorella added another chapter by choosing not to start the 34-year-old in last weekend's Heritage Classic, opting instead to go with backup Ed-

Also on the move

- Minnesota acquired goaltender Ilya Bryzgalov from Edmonton in exchange for a fourth-round draft pick. Edmonton then traded for netminder Viktor Fasth from Anaheim for a fifth-round pick this year and a third-round selection in the 2015 draft.
- The New York Islanders sent defenceman Andrew MacDonald to Philadelphia
- Washington acquired forward Dustin Penner from Anaheim for a fourth-round pick in this year's draft.
- Montreal acquired defenceman Mike Weaver from Florida in exchange for a fifth-round pick in 2015.

die Lack.

Now Lack could split duties with Jacob Markstrom, acquired from the Panthers as part of the Luongo deal along with forward Shawn Matthias.

ECHL-based forward Steve Anthony also heads to Florida. "This caught me off guard,"

for a pair of draft picks and minor-league centre Matt Mangene.

Luongo said, as quoted by the Canucks on Twitter. "But I'm excited. I'm going home."

Luongo returns to the Panthers with eight years left on his contract beyond this season. The Montreal native makes his off-season home in South Florida and had

been linked in trade talk with the Panthers for at least two years.

Instead, Vancouver general manager Mike Gillis found it difficult to trade Luongo's contract and instead shipped Schneider to the New Jersey Devils at last year's draft in exchange for the No. 9 overall pick. At the time, he said it was the organization's plan to develop Schneider and trade him for a high pick and did not think Luongo would still be unhappy with the Canucks.

"He signed a long-term contract with our club for a lot of money and was very happy to do it," Gillis said last June. "I don't anticipate there being issues."

This season in Vancouver, Luongo is 19-16-6 with a 2.38 goals-against average and .917 save percentage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLS

Impact dead last in power rankings

Goalkeeper Troy Perkins feels the Montreal Impact isn't getting any respect from Major League Soccer.

Perkins was peeved to see the club rated last in the 19-team circuit in pre-season power rankings on the MLS website.

"We always feel we have something to prove," Perkins said.

"For the league to put us at the bottom of that list is a bit of a slap in the face, but you know what? I'll take it every day. If that's the way they think about us, then we'll show them."

The mlsoccer.com website ranked Kansas City first, followed by Portland, Los Angeles, Salt Lake and New York. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soccer

England looks to win head games

In a bid to boost his team's mental strength at the World Cup, England coach Roy Hodgson said Tuesday he has hired a psychiatrist for the lead-up to the tournament in Brazil.

Dr. Steve Peters has helped the likes of Bradley Wiggins, Chris Hoy and Victoria Pendleton to master the mental side of their sport. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine united



"The national team is a symbol of unity because

players come from all over Ukraine. We're all one big family, we're all united."

Ukraine men's soccer team captain Anatoliy Tymoshchuk. The Ukrainians are scheduled to face the United States in a friendly on Wednesday in Cyprus, a match moved from Kharkiv to Larnaca for security reasons.

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SINCE 1934

MLB. Kinsler says harsh comments about former team taken out of context

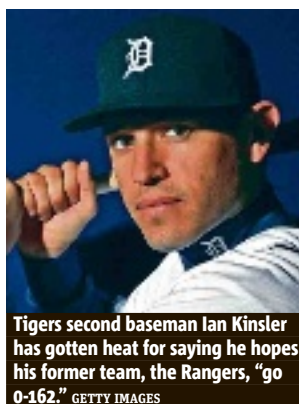
Ian Kinsler was expecting this kind of reaction — even if he didn't agree with the way his comments were portrayed.

Kinsler, who was traded from Texas to the Detroit Tigers in the off-season, said Tuesday some critical statements attributed to him in an ESPN The Magazine story were taken out of context. Kinsler was quoted as calling Rangers general manager Jon Daniels a "sleazeball."

"I'm not happy about it. I think that the story was written for drama, and taken a little out of context," the Tigers' new second baseman said. "I understand there were some things directed at the GM, but as far as my teammates and the fans, there's nothing negative to say about that, and I think the quotes taken about the general manager were taken a little out of context."

In the ESPN story, Kinsler blamed Daniels for the departure of Rangers CEO Nolan Ryan, who left the organization in October.

"Daniels is a sleazeball," Kinsler was quoted as saying. "He got in good with the owners and straight pushed Ryan out. He thought all the things he should get credit



Tigers second baseman Ian Kinsler has gotten heat for saying he hopes his former team, the Rangers, "go 0-162." GETTY IMAGES

for, Ryan got credit for. It's just ego."

Kinsler was also quoted as saying he hopes the Rangers lose every game this season: "To be honest with you, I hope they go 0-162."

Kinsler seemed surprised that comment in particular had gotten so much attention.

"That's a matter of telling a joke," he said.

At their spring camp in Surprise, Ariz., the Rangers seemed to take Kinsler's comments in stride.

"We won't go 0-162, guaranteed," manager Ron Washington said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Spring training

Bucs tame Tigers

Charlie Morton allowed one hit in three scoreless innings, helping the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 5-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday.

Kelly had two hits for the Tigers, and Austin Jackson hit a two-run homer in the fourth for Detroit's runs. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

MLB

Santana starts comeback with O's

Two-time AL Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana agreed Tuesday to a minor-league contract with the Baltimore Orioles as he tries to come back from the second major operation on his left shoulder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Howell finds her new fame larger than life

Gold-medal glory. Ski slopestyle champion still coming to grips with her grand accomplishment

Big trick up her sleeve

In slopestyle, athletes try to wow the judges with tricks and moves off the jumps and rails. The degree of difficulty, style and execution are also factors.

- Howell won gold with a score of 94.20 in conditions that started off icy and fast but became slow and slushy as the day progressed. She nailed an off-axis full twisting flip — the switch misty mute 9 jump — to help put some distance between her competitors.

Canadian freestyle skier Dara Howell made history at the Sochi Games by becoming the first women's champion in the new Olympic sport of ski slopestyle.

It's an accomplishment she has yet to fully digest.

"I still go through the moments where I can't believe that this has actually happened and I came home with a gold medal," she said Tuesday.

The last three weeks have been a whirlwind for the 19-year-old Howell, who came through with a tremendous run at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park for the victory. Kim Lamarre of Quebec City won bronze and joined her on the podium.

Howell, 19, was recently feted in her hometown of Huntsville, Ont., and the media requests and interviews are still keeping her busy.

"I was definitely overwhelmed with the amount of people that came out," she said during a media swing

through Toronto. "I knew that Huntsville supported me from the get-go but coming in the other day to the party and seeing how many people were actually there and so excited for me was just crazy."

Her future is bright and there could be more fame, sponsorships and opportunities to come. She plans to take it all in stride.

"I think all the things that do come up are just going to help me become a better athlete," she said. "Hopefully I can just run with it and see where my future takes me."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Coming back in four years is already in my mind and I know my coaches are definitely going to push for it, too." Dara Howell, on defending her Olympic ski slopestyle championship at the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.



Gold-medallist Dara Howell celebrates during the medal ceremony for women's ski slopestyle during the Sochi Winter Olympics on Feb. 11. STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES



Toronto design company Jackknife is creating a medal for Gilmore Junio, the Canadian speedskater who gave up his spot in an Olympic race to his teammate and eventual silver medallist. CONTRIBUTED GEMMA KARSTENS-SMITH

Junio's sacrifice won't go unrewarded

Gilmore Junio is getting a medal after all.

The Canadian speedskater withdrew from the men's 1,000-metre race in Sochi last month so teammate Denny Morrison could compete instead.

Morrison won silver in that Olympic race but it was Junio's selflessness that made headlines and got Canadians talking.

Mike Richardson couldn't fathom giving up his dream the way the speedskater had. The partner and creative designer for Jackknife, a Toronto design company, talked to his co-work-

ers about Junio and how they could recognize the skater's generous act.

Junio's story resonates with people because it came at a time when Canadians are questioning our global identity, Richardson said.

"I think some of the shine has worn off the Canadian persona of being the super nice people; in certain circles we're getting knocked around a bit," he said.

"Along come the Olympics. We're doing really well and winning medals and we start to feel like we're a competi-



Gilmore Junio
THE CANADIAN PRESS

tive nation. Then out of nowhere, this guy reminds us that what we really stand for isn't winning or being the best or having the most money,

but we're about having compassion and selflessness. And on a world stage. And that just makes everyone super proud."

Richardson suggested to the group that Junio deserved a medal. Once the idea was dis-

cussed, he realized they could make it a reality.

The medal's top layer will be gold, because that's the top accolade for an athlete. The centre layer will be silver, representing the medal Morrison won in Sochi thanks to Junio's sacrifice. And the final layer will be maple wood, a nod to the Canadian people.

By noon Tuesday, Jackknife had raised more than \$6,750 for the project through crowd funding. Any extra money raised will go to the charity of Junio's choice.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Volvo's new V60: safe and stylish



PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

2015 Volvo V60

- **Type.** Four-door, front- /all-wheel-drive wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, TC (240); 2.5-litre DOHC I5, TC (250); 3.0-litre DOHC I6, TC (325-345)
- **Transmissions.** Eight (2.0) and six-speed automatic (std. 2.5, 3.0)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$41,500



Design

The V60 is an offshoot of the S60 sedan and shares much of its physical traits. However, in back, the V60 presents one of the more attractively sculpted hatchbacks to grace any wagon. In most key measurements, length, width and distance between the front and rear wheels, both sedan and wagon are in a dead heat.

Engine

Along with a Volvo-measured zero-to-96-km-h (60-mph) time of 6.1 seconds, a major Drive-e bonus will be a fuel-consumption rating that's expected to be significantly lower than the inline five-cylinder's 9.9 l/100 km city and 6.5 highway.

Review. Walking the fine line between form and function ... and sometimes crossing it

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Station wagons have been around for decades, but perhaps no other brand is more identified with this form of transportation than Volvo. That's what makes the 2015 V60 Sportswagon such an important addition to the Sweden-based (and Geely of China-owned) fleet.

In many respects the V60 represents a return to Volvo's roots. There hasn't been a front-wheel-drive carryall in the brand's North American lineup since the V70 was retired after the 2010 model year. That left just the all-wheel-drive XC70, with its hiked-up suspension and blacked-out trim, as the company's wagon flag-bearer.

In cargo capacity the V60

comes up a bit shorter than you would think when compared to the old V70. That's the cost of style, apparently.

The elegant interior features a unique "waterfall" control panel that flows downward from the dashboard onto the floor console. There's storage space behind the flat panel, which is pretty standard for Volvo. The rest of the cabin displays considerable premium content with the optional well-bolstered seats being precisely what you would expect in a car that uses the Sportswagon tag.

There's also plenty of sporty content to be found under the hood. The V60 and S60 will be the first Volvos to reach North America with a brand new engine. The turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder "Drive-E" that will be available starting this summer generates 240 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque.

All of Volvo's powerplants will eventually be based off the Drive-E, but for the time being buyers can also select the turbocharged 2.5-litre five-cylinder

in the T5 AWD that makes 250 horsepower and 266 pound-feet of torque. Also offered is the turbocharged 3.0-litre six-cylinder in the AWD R-Design that produces 325 horsepower and 354 pound-feet of torque.

For a very select group of V60/S60 buyers, the performance-focused limited-edition Polestar ups the 3.0's output to 345 horsepower and 369 pound-feet. An eight-speed automatic transmission connects to the 2.0, while a six-speed automatic handles the cog-swapping chores for the five- and six-cylinder models.

Definitely helping the fuel economy in the city is technology that stops the engine when the V60 is briefly stationary then automatically restarts it when the brake pedal is released.

Volvo will also eventually offer a turbo-diesel and a plug-in hybrid version of the V60. Base V60 models, regardless of power choice, arrive with climate control, heated front seats, power moonroof and a power parking brake.

The remaining trim levels — Premier, Premier Plus and Platinum — add notable features such as a rear park assist camera, power-retractable outside mirrors, navigation system and premium audio. The top-Swede T6 R-Design comes with leather-covered sport seats, keyless start and 18-inch alloys. Of course safety-conscious Volvo offers an impressive selection of advanced crash-avoidance aids.

Notably, there's collision warning with pedestrian and cyclist detection as well as a Road Side Information Camera that projects speed-limit and no-passing signs onto the driver information screen. The car can warn the driver if the speed limit is exceeded.

It's that sort of unique safety gear that over the years has earned Volvo beloved-brand status. Ultimately, however, it's the V60 Sportswagon's sleek lines, inviting interior accouterments and potent, yet new-age thrift-conscious powertrains that will help propel more youthful buyers into the Volvo fold.

Compare



1 BMW 328i xDrive
Base price: \$50,000



2 Cadillac CTS
Base price: \$49,900



3 Subaru Outback Limited
Base price: \$38,400

50 DRIVE

The silver lining on the tasteless '80s cloud

Auto know. OK, so we all know the '80s was terrible for many things like bands, hairdos and cars but here's some machines that made the cringing worthwhile

TODD
BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

The 1980s will never be mistaken as the golden years of automotive ingenuity. Or music. Or hair.

From the gull-wing doors of the DeLorean to the rollover-ready Suzuki Samurai to the boxy Yugo or anything at all made by Renault, epic vehicle failures marked one of the more forgettable periods in transportation history. But for all the short-lived Ford Granadas, Cadillac Cimarrons and Triumph Acclaims of the time, there were a handful of key vehicles that made an immediate and lasting impact on the automotive industry.

So let's take a trip back 25 years and celebrate a few vehicles that stood the test of time and changed the course of vehicular demand.

Mazda MX-5 (Miata)

It's hard to believe that a quarter century has passed since this little two-seater first hit North American roadways and put "fun" squarely back on the priority list for new-car buyers. This Japanese creation leaned on its good looks and dependability to become a major player in the roadster segment occupied at the time by unreliable and flimsy British and Italian cars (MG and Fiat). And while the Miata's popularity has varied with the times, this classic is still approaching nearly one million in total sales since its debut for 1989. The brand is the best-selling two-seat sportscar in North American history. Dealers were unable to keep up with demand for this relatively inexpensive roadster that also featured the unmatched Japanese reliability of the time. The Miata made such an indelible impact on the automotive industry, it appeared 11 times on Car and Driver magazine's 10 Best list, and Sports Car International named it the best sports car of the 1990s and one of the 10 best of all time.

Ford hit Jackpot

With more than eight million Tauruses built since its launch in 1986, Ford hit a grand slam with this comfortable, stylish and affordable sedan that fit almost every lifestyle and budget.

Lexus LS

Launched 25 years ago to compete in a luxury sedan market dominated by European and American brands, the LS quickly made a name for itself and parent company Toyota. Within five years of its launch in 1989, the LS helped Lexus overtake rivals BMW and Mercedes-Benz in overall U.S. sales and by 2000 it had even jumped Cadillac as the luxury-sedan sales leader. The affordable LS 400 made such an impact in North American showrooms, Mercedes-Benz actually dropped the price of its luxury models by about 10 per cent to compete. Multiple redesigns and four generations later, the Lexus LS continues to hold a prominent place in luxury markets worldwide.

Acura NSX

The launch of the NSX was a gutsy endeavor by Acura because this sportscar set its sights on the Ferrari and Porsche empires, which is a battleground where no other vehicle maker had ever dared go before, especially one from Japan. Conceived in the mid-to-late 1980s and first produced in 1990 for the 1991 model year, the NSX — an acronym for New Sports eXperimental — earned the title of the "everyday supercar" because of a quality and reliability it provided that other exotics of the era did not. With the first-ever all-aluminum production vehicle, the first production use of the "VTEC" variable valve timing system and the first production four channel anti-lock brake system, this Japanese icon raised the bar for sports cars through the 1990s with a stellar ride and handling. The aluminum engine was a 270-horsepower 3.0-litre V6 that revved to an astonishing-for-the-time 8,000 on the tachometer. It pushed the 1,400-kilogram car to 270 km/h. Its innovative construction became an inspiration for future designs, such



The Miata has added many convenience items - an optional power metal folding top, for one - over the years, but it remains a fairly pure sporty machine at a reasonable price.

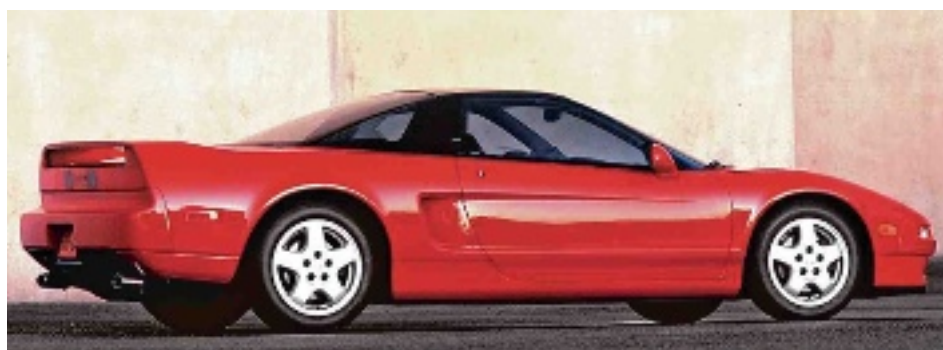
as the McLaren F1, and, of course Ferrari pulled up its socks. Production of the NSX was put on mothballs for 10 years after being continuously built from 1990 through 2005 with little in the way of noticeable change. But this important nameplate will be resurrected for the 2015 model year with a striking redesign and startling Formula One-derived engine technology.

Ford Taurus

Billed as the perfect transportation option for any demographic, this wildly popular sedan became one of the most influential vehicles in North America of the last 30 years. With more than eight million Tauruses built since its launch in 1986, Ford hit a grand slam with this comfortable, stylish and affordable sedan that fit almost every lifestyle and budget. Key was its fantastic design that broke away from the square styling that plagued the roads. Popularity peaked from 1992-1996 when the Taurus became the best selling ride in the United States during those five years. The Taurus has undergone many redesigns and updates in its 28 years of near continuous production, the most notable coming in 2008 when Ford moved this sedan from the mid-size to the full-size market. Putting together a list of the worst cars from the late 1980s is pretty easy as the decade is still the butt of many jokes. But it wasn't a total loss as the cars that rose to the top did so with game-changing innovation.



The first Taurus had a ground-breaking shape in an era of vehicles with flat surfaces and jagged corners. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE



Imagine seeing this in the fall of 1990? All-aluminum construction, 8,000-rpm engine and none of the maintenance issues with Ferrari.



So much for European and North American-dominated luxury. The Lexus LS quickly became a top contender, almost out of thin air.

Automakers to take bite of Apple's new system

CarPlay. Technology giant's attempt to infiltrate the inside of your vehicle is impressive and 'kind of a big deal'

"I don't know how to put this, but I'm kind of a big deal."



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Ron Burgundy said that in Anchorman, but you get the feeling Apple might say that too, though not too loudly, at this week's auto show in Geneva, as several show vehicles from Volvo, Ferrari

and Mercedes-Benz are set to debut and demonstrate Apple's CarPlay.

CarPlay is Apple's way of infiltrating its operating system (OS) into the nerve centre of the automobile — it will allow you to do everything you could do with your iPhone while driving, but through the vehicle's built-in infotainment display.

Net result: the vehicle's

display will feature recognizable Apple icons for music, phone, messages, navigation, etc. Volvo is introducing its new user interface on a concept displayed at Geneva, but the first production Volvo to feature it will be the all-new Volvo XC90 coming later this year — touted as the first vehicle to offer CarPlay.

According to Apple's website, Hyundai, Jaguar and



Volvo's new iPhone-friendly dash. COURTESY OF VOLVO

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*Limited time finance purchase offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit. Base MSRP of \$16,385/\$26,600 for a new and unregistered 2014 Jetta 2.0L / Tiguan 2.0T base model with 5/6-speed manual transmission, including \$1,395/\$1,610 freight and PDI, financed at 2.9% APR for 84 months equals 182 bi-weekly payments of \$84/\$139. \$1,764/\$3,230 down payment. Cost of borrowing is \$1,467/\$2,428 for a total obligation of \$17,052/\$28,528. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. **\$500 available on cash purchase, finance or lease (through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit) of a new and unregistered 2014 Jetta 2.0L / Tiguan 2.0T base model, and up to \$1,000 on a new and unregistered 2014 Jetta 1.4L Hybrid / 2.0L GLI. Discount varies by model. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers end March 31, 2014 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Models shown: 2014 Jetta 1.8 TSI Highline, \$24,490 / Tiguan 2.0T Highline R-Line, \$40,190. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Das Auto & Design", "Jetta", "Tiguan" and "Autobahn for All" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2014 Volkswagen Canada.

Honda will join Volvo, Ferrari and Mercedes-Benz as the first six automakers to offer upcoming 2014 vehicles with CarPlay.

A whole bunch of other automakers also committed to roll out CarPlay, but a little further down the pike.

Apple says CarPlay can be operated with whatever controls the vehicle is equipped with, be they touch-screen, voice, rotary, or even a "joy stick" system like BMW's infamous iDrive.

No doubt that all the car makers, and the tech companies with a vested interest like Google and Apple, are trying to give us all this great stuff with the easiest and safest interfaces possible, but the possibility of increased driver distraction is something that will always doggedly follow the technology.

There is just so much of it. And there's the catch 22 of when it's easier to use and blazingly beautiful, you just end up using it more. Like downing a bucket of low-cal ice-cream — good it's low-cal, but overall more bad because it's a whole bucket.

Reports are circulating that the U.S. vehicle transportation safety agency, NHTSA, is worried about the increasing number of Americans getting killed in crashes involving a distracted driver, and is considering a ban on certain kinds of complex infotainment controls. "Joy stick" systems, for example, require

Control

"Apple says CarPlay can be operated with whatever controls the vehicle is equipped with..."

Mike Goetz

an extra level of eye scanning, because the control device is not directly beside the display.

NHTSA may also have a concern with touch screens — they are notorious for delays and false entrees, leaving drivers wondering — and distracted — about if they actually achieved their desired selection.

"There is a reason jet cockpits don't have touch screens," said Greg Horn, who follows industry trends for Mitchell, a leading supplier of tools and training programs for the auto industry.

"You have this tactile switch. You are instantaneously aware that you have pushed that button, and the function is complete."

Horn also noted that Lincoln's new MKC is actually backing away from touch screens a bit, by having a few more rotary knobs than the previous version of Lincoln MyTouch.

All said, I am looking forward to CarPlay, and I will try to not lose my head or get too distracted when I inevitably encounter Apple's spinning pinwheel of death.

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2014 CX-5
COMPACT UTILITY
OF THE YEAR



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2014 MAZDA6
CANADIAN CAR OF THE YEAR AWARD



Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Today's cosmic set-up is fortunate, but only if you are prepared to get out into the world. You know the saying: It's not so much what you know that matters as who you know.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Now is the time to prove yourself. With your ruler Venus moving into the career area of your chart, you will impress people of power with ease — if you make the effort.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Venus, planet of emotional and material values, moves in your favour today, making it necessary to think about who and what means the most to you. You know the answer already, but remind yourself.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Everything is going so well for you at the moment that you may get a bit suspicious and wonder if it's some kind of cosmic trick. Nothing could be further from the truth. This is a genuine lucky streak, so enjoy.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Venus, planet of love, moves into the relationship area of your chart today, so anything of a partnership nature will go well. No matter how busy you may be, take time to remind that one special person how much they mean to you.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Remember it's quality, not quantity, that counts. If you keep that point in mind today, everyone will praise you for a job well done. If you try to do too much you'll please no one.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Too often in the past you have lacked the confidence to follow through on an idea. Now, you will look and act as if you can't fail. And you won't.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Venus, the planet that helps smooth over difficulties, moves into the domestic area of your chart today. Use its influence to reorder your home life in ways that suit your needs.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You can get through twice as much work in half as much time as you usually do today. But don't spend all your time on everyday chores because this is also an aspect that increases the fun factor.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

This should be a productive day but there is a danger that in your haste to show what you can do, you will take on too many tasks. Focus on the one thing you are great at.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

There is nothing you cannot do. With Venus, planet of harmony, joining Mercury in your sign today doors will open as if by magic and heads will turn as you walk down the street. You're worth watching.

Pisces

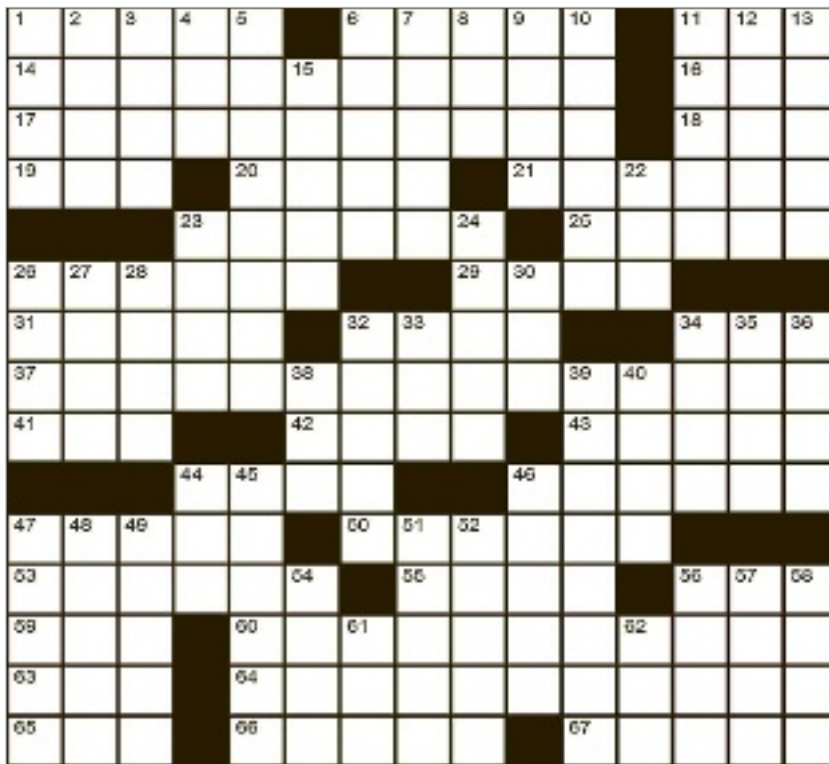
Feb. 20 - March 20

If someone is in trouble today you will ride to their rescue, no questions asked. While it's good of you to be generous with your time, you must be careful about how you use your money. And remember, it is YOUR money. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Note hit by a soprano, ___
6. Gene Pitney's "Twenty-Four Hours from ___"
11. Colorado NHL players, to fans
14. Shakespeare comedy: 4 wds.
16. Sass
17. The Pursuit of Happiness song: 3 wds.
18. Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.
19. ___ Z
20. Chess pieces, e.g.
21. Sandra Oh's Ontario birthplace
23. His-and-Her clothing
25. Microwaved
26. Equilibrium
29. Exuberance
31. Rice dish
32. Height: Prefix
34. Court game org.
37. Second Cup, for example: 3 wds.
41. Comic actress Ms. Gasteyer
42. Peace, in Paris
43. "___ had time to..." (There was extra time, so...)
44. Dave Clark Five's "Catch ___ You Can"
46. Ms. Danes
47. Chicago airport
50. Set up
53. St. ___ Canadian Memorial, in Belgium
55. Middle East country



56. Potsie's portrayer ...his initials-sharers
59. Blood-typing letters
60. Toffee brand in the tartan wrapper
63. "___ out!" (Ump's call)
64. Barenaked Ladies singer: 2 wds.
65. Jrs. dads

66. Songstress, Taylor ___
67. Playwright Eugene O'Neill's daughter's namesakes

Down

1. Chuckling sounds
2. Help ___ hand
3. Sandwich sort

4. Brick carrier
5. Saskatchewan town that is home to the 'World's Largest Tomahawk': 2 wds.
6. Inclines
7. Imperial decree
8. Romanian currency
9. Stop ___
10. Greek goddess
11. Tatshenshini-___

- Park, in northwest BC
12. 'V' of CV
13. Buy
15. Actress Ms. Anderson's
22. Fun-rhymer
23. The States fliers, commonly
24. Photocopy
26. Shelter gr.

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

27. Common noun suffix
28. Racing's Romeo
30. Prune
32. "Have ___ trip home!"
33. Phi's Greek alphabet follower
34. "Avatar" (2009) species
35. Casket stand
36. Green Gables girl
38. Prefix meaning 'Over'
39. Soapy-tasting-to-some herb
40. Hatful
44. Mr. Geller
45. Appeared
46. Construction site sight
47. "Back Stabbers": 1972 hit by The ___
48. Journalist/broadcaster, Karina ___
49. Then: French
51. Camera company
52. "The ___ has spoken." - Jeff Probst, "Survivor"
54. Zilch
56. PGA part [abbr.]
57. Nelly Furtado's 2000 debut album: '___, Nelly!'
58. American SINS equivalents
61. Sob
62. Ear: Prefix

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today



-8° / -20°
Variable

Thursday



-6° / -14°
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CITY: 7.6L/100 KM▼



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HWY: 7.3L/100 KM
CITY: 10.2L/100 KM▼

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WARRANTY

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FOR 60 MONTHS



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